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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Chicago pols finally discover les/gay rights

The appeal of 70,000 votes helps pass a gay rights bill as rival mayoral candidates try to curry favor with an often ignored constituency

By Chris Bull

CHICAGO — In the midst of a fiery mayoral campaign, the City Council Dec. 21 voted 28-17 to approve a gay rights ordinance. The bill had gone down to defeat for 14 consecutive years.

"We have never been so popular," joked Laurie Dittman, co-chair of the gay and lesbian Town Meeting, a network of lesbian and gay groups working for the ordinance in Chicago. "Every serious candidate for mayor lobbied for the bill and has been courting our vote. They know we can swing the election." Dittman credited incumbent Mayor Eugene Sawyer for convincing several aldermen to vote in favor of the bill at the last minute. Alderman and independent mayoral candidate Timothy Evans also worked for the bill's passage. According to opinion polls, Sawyer and Evans, who are Black, currently trail white candidate Richard Daley, Jr., son of the late "machine" politician Richard Daley, in the race for mayor. The primary election is Feb. 28.

The bill adds sexual orientation to the Chicago human rights ordinance which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race,

religion and ethnicity. The bill provides for penalties of \$100 to \$500 a day for violating the bill's anti-discrimination provisions.

Rick Garcia, co-chair of the Town Meeting, credited several factors for the bill's passage. He said the community "kept its eyes on the prize" by focusing on the bill, instead of working on a number of issues at the same time. He said the Town Meeting also took a "non-partisan" approach to lobbying for the bill. "We knew we had only about 15 progressive votes so we went after conservative aldermen as well. We especially targeted Roman Catholic aldermen who had consistently opposed the bill. About one-half changed their vote this time around," said Garcia. The National Coalition of American Nuns, the National Assembly of Religious Women and Chicago Religious Women were instrumental in changing at least five votes, he added.

Following the vote, the Archdiocese of Chicago criticized the bill in a written statement. "Although the Archdiocese of Chicago supports the efforts to reaffirm and

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Setback feared in Kowalski case

Shortly after doctors find the disabled lesbian capable of expressing her wishes, a Minneapolis judge delays her move to a rehabilitation center

By Chris Bull

MINNEAPOLIS — To the dismay of advocates for disabled lesbian Sharon Kowalski, District Court Judge Robert Campbell Jan. 3 granted her father, Donald Kowalski, 14 days to prepare an appeal to the December ruling that ordered Sharon Kowalski moved to "an appropriate rehabilitation facility... capable of working with brain-damaged people." The December decision was a victory for Karen Thompson, Kowalski's lover, who has been prevented from seeing Kowalski since Donald Kowalski was awarded custody in 1983. Thompson said the earlier decision moved her closer to reunification with her lover, who was severely injured in an automobile accident in 1983. (See *GCN*, Dec. 18, 1988.)

Thompson told *GCN* that she is disappointed with the judge's most recent decision to allow an appeal. "Sharon should be receiving therapy without delay," Thompson said. "It's but another example showing that Donald Kowalski does not have Sharon's best interest in mind. How can he possibly justify her not getting rehabilitation?"

Also in December three court-appointed doctors charged with evaluating Kowalski's condition submitted findings indicating she

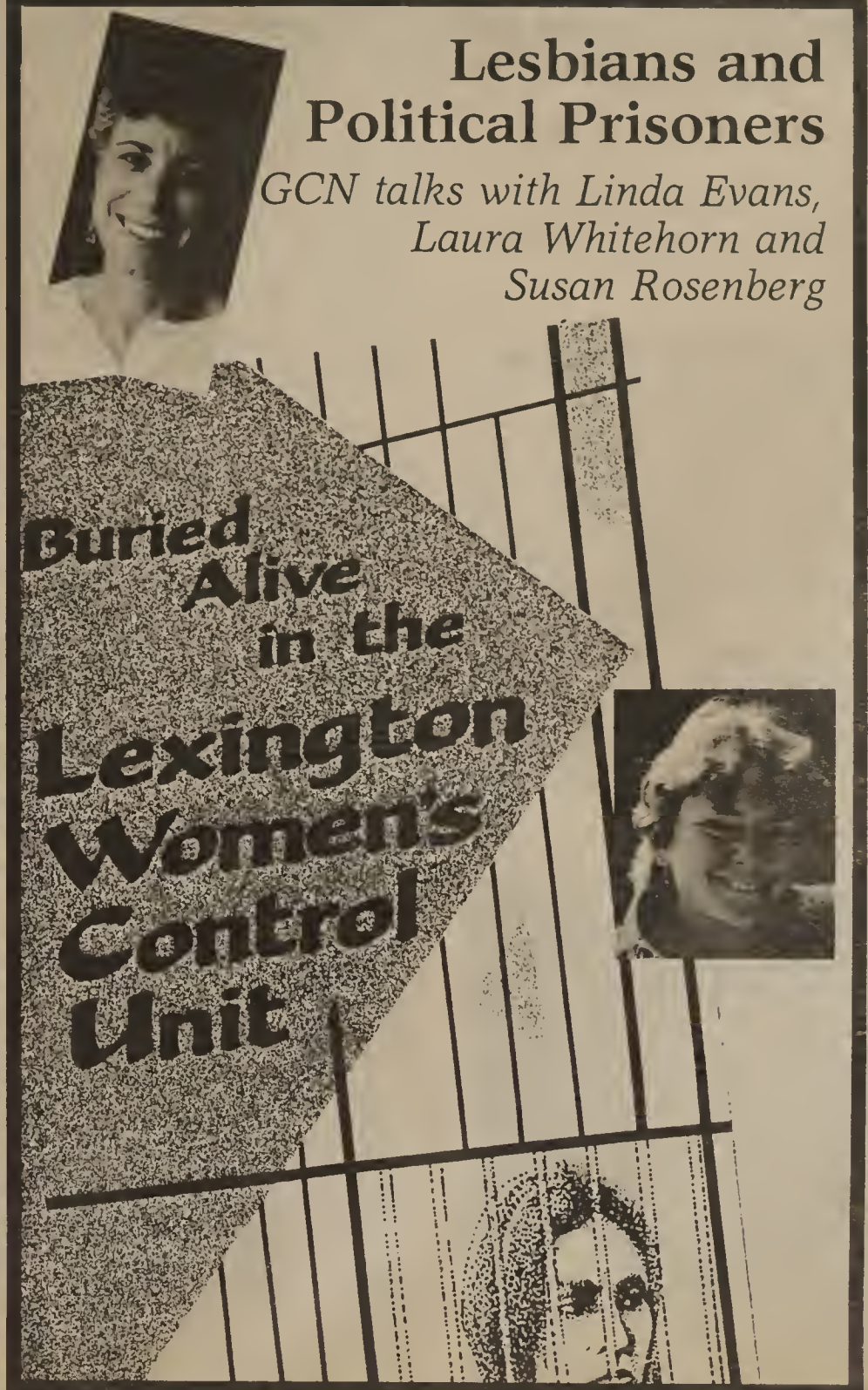
is able to express her wishes and should receive better rehabilitation therapy. In accordance with the findings, Judge Campbell ordered Kowalski moved to a center specializing in rehabilitation.

Jack Fena, lawyer for Donald Kowalski, told *GCN* that he had not decided on what grounds he will base the appeal. "We're still looking at the judge's order and the doctors' report. I can't say any more than that." Thompson speculated that "once again" Fena would attempt to make Thompson the issue in the case by claiming that rehabilitation may lead to "Sharon seeing me. They will claim I want to sexually molest her."

"The appeal is definitely a setback, although it may only be a temporary one," said Tacie Dejanikus, chair of the National Free Sharon Kowalski Committee. Thompson agreed: "I don't think this will hurt us in the long run because they [Donald Kowalski and Fena] have run out of excuses. It's increasingly clear they do not have any arguments left." She added that two weeks is not enough to prepare an adequate appeal. Also, she said, the appeal process will allow the doctors' report to become public, which will only help her case. "The public has a right to know what they have done to Sharon." □ filed from Boston

Lesbians and Political Prisoners

GCN talks with Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn and Susan Rosenberg



Literary activist Joseph Beam dies at 33

Editor of In The Life and Black/Out, Beam was a 'nurturer' of the Black gay literary movement

The words and images here — by, for, and about Black gay men — are for us as we begin to end the silence that has surrounded our lives, as we begin creating ourselves, as we begin to come to power. We are survivors and have come to tell our stories of men loving men.

— Joseph Beam, from his introduction to *In The Life: A Black Gay Anthology* (Alyson, Boston, 1986)

By Chris Bull

PHILADELPHIA — Joseph Beam, a pioneer in the Black lesbian and gay literary movement in this country, was found dead in his apartment Dec. 27 at the age of 33. According to the state Medical Examiner's Office, Beam had been dead for 72 hours before the manager of his apartment building discovered his body. No cause of death has been announced, although a spokesperson for the Examiner's Office,

Continued on page 7

Daring to dream

Dreams are what propel us through life, and allow us to focus above and beyond the hurdles that dot our passage. Medger, Martin, and Malcolm were dreamers. And they were killed. I dare myself to dream. If I cannot vocalize a dream, which is the first step towards its realization, then I have no dream. It remains a thought, a vision without form. I dare myself to dream that our blood is thicker than difference.

— In memory of Joseph Beam, with whom we dare to dream.

□ The Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays

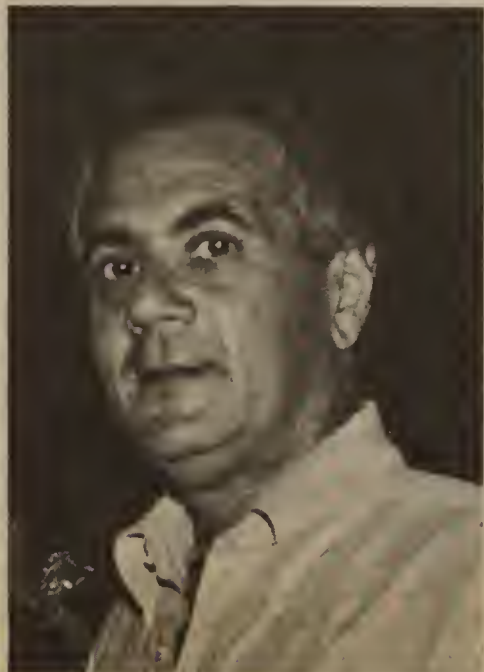
Quote of the week

"Boy, I sure hope people apply for all the jobs we need filled here at the paper."
— *Frequently stated around the office at GCN by staff members.*

Boston immigration law forum

BOSTON — A forum on how U.S. immigration law affects gay men and lesbians will be held January 17 at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) of Boston and the Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men, the event will present information on how U.S. law allows for exclusion of gay people and people with AIDS/ARC or HIV-positive status. Also discussed will be how to apply for permanent residency status and HIV testing requirements. In addition, an update on the Immigration Reform Act will be offered and there will be a question-and-answer period.

Panelists at the forum are Doralba Munoz-Godales of the Office for Refugees



Barney Frank, featured speaker at les/gay immigration forum.

and Immigration, Congressman Barney Frank, lawyer Richard Iandoli and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Fernando Chang-Muy.

The event, which is free, will take place at the Univ. of Mass., 250 Stuart St., Room 222. For more information, call GLAD at 617/426-1350.

□ Stephanie Poggi

Rights of seropositive prisoners

SAN FRANCISCO — *The Exchange*, a publication of the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network, notes that "after a series of defeats, there have been several recent cases protecting the rights of seropositive prisoners."

Two of these cases involved the right to privacy, specifically protection against non-consensus disclosure of a prisoner's diagnosis. In *Doe v. Coughlin*, (N.D.N.Y.) 1988 a federal district court granted a preliminary injunction against the involuntary transfer of seropositive prisoners to a segregated dorm because the transfer would result in the disclosure of their HIV status. The court held that "there are few matters of more personal nature, and there are few decisions over which a person could have a greater desire to exercise control, than the manner in which he reveals [an HIV seropositive] diagnosis to others.... Within the confines of the prison, the infected prisoner is likely to suffer from harassment and psychological pressures. Beyond the prison's walls, the person suffering from AIDS is often subject to discrimination." (Memorandum decision of Oct. 14, 1988)

Similarly, a federal district court in Wisconsin held that prisoners have a constitutionally protected right of privacy with regard to medical records (*Woods v. White*, 689 F. Supp. 874 — W.D. Wis. 1988).

A third court held that the exclusion on medical grounds of a prisoner with AIDS

from a furlough program violated the equal protection clause. The court said that the denial was based on generalizations and possibly false assumptions (*Lopez v. Coughlin*, 139 Misc. 2d 851q — N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1988). "In general it is easier to attack a prison administration action based on medical grounds as opposed to security grounds," said Ken Stephens, of Prisoners Legal Services of New York, 2 Catharine St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

□ Mike Riegle

Mayors allocate annual AIDS grants

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Mayors Dec. 5 announced \$913,000 in grants to 23 community-based AIDS education groups around the country. Since its inception in 1983, the Conference's AIDS Prevention Program has awarded \$2.5 million in grants to 88 organizations, using funds provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Groups awarded grants this year include: the Austin Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization (ALLGO), Stop AIDS Chicago, the PWA Coalition of Dallas, Migrant Family Health Services in North Carolina, Black and White Men Together (BWMT) of Los Angeles, and the Asian AIDS Project of San Francisco.

"It's easy for AIDS to reach minority groups concentrated in our cities, but it's difficult for AIDS education to reach them," said Thomas Cochran, director of the Mayor's Conference. "This is why our grants go to the local community groups who demonstrate that they are in touch with the people whose behavior puts them at risk, that they can reach these people in schools, on the streets, in bars, or wherever they may be."

Richard Asch of Stop AIDS Chicago — which received a \$40,000 grant for an education project aimed at gay Latino and other minority youth—praised the grant. "It's a tremendously important for the government to acknowledge that there is a group called gay Latinos and that it needs AIDS education.... It's not everything we need but it's a good start," Asch told *GCN*.

Asch said Stop AIDS Chicago has not experienced problems with the "Helms amendment," a federal law authored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), that forbids federal funds for organizations that "promote homosexuality." The law requires that local review boards review all materials developed by AIDS groups. Review boards include representatives of local health departments, civic organizations, substance abuse clinics and other groups involved in AIDS prevention in the cities. Asch said "So far we have not run into problems presenting educational material to targeted populations. I think most health officials, including those at the Centers for Disease Control, support our work."

□ Chris Bull

Girl power

BERLIN, West Germany — Fifteen young women between the ages of 14 and 21 have been editing a magazine for girls called *The Little Witch* (*Die kleineHexe*). According to a translation in the most recent issue of *Connexions* of a 1984 article in the West



Die kleine Hexe

German *Emma*, the editors of *The Little Witch* say they began their magazine because "[W]e were simply fed up with having to justify why we wanted to talk and to write about girl-specific issues in mixed school groups and papers.... We spontaneously decided to form a girls-only group at our school." After a year of meeting, they came up with the idea of producing a magazine — as a way to present their issue publicly and to reach other young women in West Berlin.

The group wrote articles about sexual harassment by teachers and fellow students, violence against women, masturbation and birth control. They solicited ads and articles and organized the distribution of the paper in front of eight different schools. Then, according to the editors, "The magazine hit like a bomb. In the subway people talked about it. At school everybody talked about it. Parents ran amok. Girls had dared to put out their own paper. They had written openly about their own sexuality. At special meetings, parents deliberated about how to prohibit our publication. Anonymous callers threatened our ad clients.... We were a smashing success."

The Little Witch went on to attract 20 new girls from other schools and in 1982 won first prize in a youth magazine contest. The group also produced a film called *Girls' Power* ("We simply borrowed a Super-8 camera and wrote one page of the script at a time. Then we started filming."). The film consists of a dramatization of the meeting of a girl group in which problems of young women are discussed, interspersed with scenes illustrating the problems in real life. The film won a national student film festival award.

The girls say they hope their story "will inspire other girls to resist. For our own future we wish to gain much more girls' power."

□ Stephanie Poggi

Local legal group seeks board members

BOSTON — Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), New England's public interest legal foundation for lesbian and gay rights, seeks members for its Board of Directors. Members will work with "a committed group of women and men in a growing and dynamic organization that does cutting edge work in areas such as AIDS discrimination, foster care, anti-violence and civil rights," according to GLAD.

Board meetings are monthly and all members serve on Board committees. GLAD is looking for people with an interest and some experience in financial matters, personnel, and fundraising. People of color and non-attorneys are especially encouraged to respond. Send a resume or other information about relevant experience and abilities with a cover letter to Board Search, GLAD, P.O. Box 218, Boston, MA 02112, by January 15, 1989. For further information, call (617) 426-1350.

□ Cindy Rizzo

Help sisters say it!

BOSTON — "Say it, Sister!," a weekly public affairs call-in program on WMBR — 88.1 FM provides a forum for local women to explore their talents and issues in a progressive setting. It has been broadcast for nearly three years with community support, and the current production group invites you to become a part of this vital resource by contributing to fundraising and recruiting drives now in progress. We need to raise \$1500 for a tape editing machine and \$800 for high quality reel tape for the year. We also invite women interested in joining the collective production group or interested in airing an issue to drop us a line.

Donations or messages can be sent to "Say it, Sister!" Box 426, Cambridge, MA 02139. The collective can also be reached by leaving a message for Ellen Reynolds at 617/576-1502.

Shows in January include discussions of the housing crisis, with Barbara Neely; Annette Diaz's recent trip to Cuba; the experiences of incarcerated women in the

U.S.; and music from Boston's only Afro-American orchestra.

□ Kim Motylewski

N.E. Community Research Initiatives launched

BOSTON — About 100 health professionals and AIDS activists convened Jan. 3 at Boston's Club Cafe for the first organizational meeting for New England Initiative for Research. The new group seeks "to develop and conduct research protocols to explore the efficacy of drug and other progressive therapies in intervention of the progression of HIV infection."

Issues to be discussed at upcoming meetings include:

1. the possibility of building a coalition in order to bid for the \$350 thousand allocated for community research initiatives (CRIs) by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR);
2. the development of research protocols for new AIDS drugs; and
3. the development of a community-based research initiative.

To participate in upcoming organizational meetings, call Gary Chefetz at *NEXT* magazine, (617) 497-8424, or Dale Orlando at Fenway Community Health Center, (617) 267-7573.

□ Judy Harris

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Substance abuse group holds NY teach-in for ACT UP

ADAPT educators say drug treatment and AIDS prevention must be equal priorities

By Andrew Miller

NEW YORK — Members of ADAPT, an advocacy group for recovering substance abusers, presented a teach-in on AIDS and IV-drug use for ACT UP members on Dec. 14 at New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Center. The discussion included a clarification of terms often used to discuss addiction and an overview of the progression of chemical dependency and of treatment methods. The presentation also included a mock demonstration of how to inject heroin or cocaine, in order to familiarize audience members with IV paraphernalia and its associated dangers.

ADAPT, which was originally founded in the late '70s by recovered drug addicts, has, since 1985 dealt primarily with the AIDS crisis as it affects IV-drug users. Edith Springer, the organization's president, said that ADAPT's primary strategy is to get drug addicts into treatment programs. Noting that there are an estimated 250,000 IV-drug users in New York State, and only 40,000 treatment slots, Springer said that ADAPT also tries to discourage needle use among people who are still using drugs. Failing that, ADAPT discourages addicts from sharing their works, and provides materials with which IV-drug users can sterilize their needles. Sharing needles to shoot drugs is one way that HIV (a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS) is spread from one person to another. The sale and purchase of hypodermic needles is illegal in New York State.

"People share needles because they are illegal, expensive, and scarce," said Ellissa Greene, another ADAPT member, who, like all members of ADAPT, is a recovered drug addict. She noted that the idea that IV-drug users share needles because they like to, or for some social reason, is a myth. Although ADAPT supports the distribution of clean needles as a way to check the spread of AIDS, many ADAPT members are at odds with New York City's current needle exchange program, which they say is design-

ed to fail. To receive a clean needle the program requires drug users to go to the Department of Health, which is in a building located downtown, far from the neighborhoods where most IV-drug users live, and where they buy and shoot drugs. The needles are distributed on a one-for-one basis in exchange for ones previously distributed by the Health Department. ADAPT brings its sterilization kits to actual shooting galleries, and does outreach in neighborhoods with a high incidence of drug use, like Harlem and Manhattan Valley. ADAPT cannot legally distribute clean needles itself.

During the evening's discussion period, members of the audience asked how ACT UP could best support the work that ADAPT is doing. "We look to you to make us look conservative," quipped Springer. She noted more seriously that the constraints that come with relying on federal, state, and city funding sources often do not permit ADAPT to address directly its goals of free treatment on demand for all drug addicts, and free needles for anyone who asks for them.

Responding to a question about resistance to the idea of clean needle distribution from Black and Hispanic community leaders, Springer accused opponents of such programs of "taking a health issue and making it a political football." Many such leaders, including U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), have denounced needle distribution, saying that it encourages drug abuse in poor and minority communities. ADAPT's Greene, however, disputed the idea that distributing clean needles promotes drug abuse, and said that AIDS prevention and drug treatment must be equal priorities. She told *GCN*, "The reality today is that there is a lack of drug treatment programs, and we need to keep people alive long enough to get them into treatment." □

Daley, and alderman Larry Bloom, a white progressive — lesbian and gay issues have become a "litmus test." "Even Daley, who has been vague on every issue, has spoken up for the bill. The candidates are all seeking lesbian and gay staff members and are showing up at every community meeting and function. It's really incredible," she said. Dittman added that community efforts have led to the registration of over 17,000 new lesbian and gay voters in the last several months. She estimated that the lesbian and gay community can deliver 70,000 votes to its favored candidate.

The city's several lesbian and gay political organizations are waiting until the end of January to endorse a candidate. Garcia predicted most organizations and individuals would support Sawyer due to his lobbying on behalf of the bill. However, many members of the community, Garcia pointed out, are still angry that Sawyer reneged on his promise to speak at last year's lesbian and gay pride parade. After Washington's death, Evans was favored by many progressives to take over the mayor's office because he was closely allied with the popular mayor. Evans is still favored by many grass-roots activists, who believe he has been more consistently progressive during his ten-year stint as an alderman. Mary Black, who is working on the Evans for mayor campaign, told *GCN* "although I give credit to Sawyer for twisting arms and getting the bill passed, he didn't even support the bill until he came into office last year. Timothy Evans has supported the bill for ten years. It's really a matter of degrees. Evans has been more supportive of the community and progressive causes for much longer than Sawyer who supported the bill only because he knows he needs gay and lesbian votes to win."

Until the passage of the bill, many other lesbians and gay men also viewed Sawyer as

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Boston gay man dies in police custody

Police report suicide while unanswered questions prompt demands for investigation

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — Questions surround a police report that Harold "Jason" Christensen, a 36 year-old white gay musician and carpenter, committed suicide while being held at the Area D police station 10 days before Christmas. Police claim they found Christensen hanging from his jail cell bars by a belt. Since 1978, there have been two other deaths by hanging in the Warren Ave. jail located in Boston's South End, an increasingly gentrified area now populated by a large number of white gay men, but which still includes several communities of color and a number of low-income people.

Earl Rosen, who lived on Beacon Hill with Christensen and Christensen's lover, Dana Hawkes, told *GCN* Christensen had not been depressed. "I believe he committed suicide because the police captain told me that he was found hanging by a belt from his jail cell bars."

How Christensen obtained the belt, which does not appear to be his own, and how the alleged suicide was allowed to occur are questions that remain unanswered as *GCN* goes to press. Friends of Christensen also say they have had trouble getting information about the case, and in at least one instance, were lied to by Area D police, who oversee the jail.

Gay Boston City Councilor David Scondras has asked for a "full investigation of the death and how it could have happened,"



David Scondras

according to his aide, Gary Dotterman. Dotterman also told *GCN* that Scondras has received at least four complaints about Area D personnel in the last year. The complaints include charges of racist and homophobic assaults by police and threats against people's lives for filing complaints against Area D personnel.

In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has asked Boston city officials for documentation of the steps they've taken to prevent prisoners from hanging themselves from cell bars. Area D cells do not have plastic shields which prevent access to bars as required by state regulations, according to John Stobierski of DPH.

Police spokesperson Jill Riley refused to answer any questions about Christensen's death, except to say that a police investigation is ongoing. The state medical examiner's office has yet to officially release a cause of death.

What police have said is that Christensen had been picked up by police early on the evening of Dec. 15 when he and a friend, Mark Hopkins, allegedly drove their car into another car. The ensuing five-car collision on Tremont St. in the South End caused several minor injuries. Christensen, who was the driver, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Hopkins, a white, 33-year-old bisexual man, was also allegedly intoxicated, and was put in a separate jail cell for his own protection, according to police. Hopkins, who is described by friends as a homeless musician, told the *Boston Herald* that he "faked" a suicide attempt about an hour after he and Christensen arrived at Area D in order to get out of the cell. He was then taken to Mass. General Hospital's emergency psychiatric unit for observation. Christensen was reportedly found dead in his cell about an hour after Hopkins was taken to Mass. General.

GCN has been unable to reach Hopkins for comment.

According to Christensen's lover,

Hawkes, both Christensen and Hopkins had been hustlers, and Christensen had had a number of related run-ins with police.

Hawkes told *GCN* that he was asked by police to identify the belt Christensen allegedly used to hang himself. He said he had been whisked to the police station only minutes after learning of his lover's death and had first thought the belt was Christensen's. Upon closer examination, however, he discovered the belt had a "gold-colored, designer-type buckle," which, he said, clearly distinguished it from any belt his lover owned. Hawkes also told *GCN* the belt would have been too small for Christensen. He added, "It was the police who pointed out there's no way this could fit Jason."

Police questioned Hopkins about the belt, but apparently determined it was not his, according to Charley Shively, a friend of both Christensen and Hopkins. Shively added that Hopkins never wore a belt of any kind.

Hopkins was being observed at Mass. General by Laura Prager, a first-year resident in child psychiatry, when he was questioned about the belt by police, according to Shively. Prager told *GCN* she has been instructed not to comment on any aspect of the case. She even refused to tell *GCN* what her position is at Mass. General. Another person who possibly could have information about the death is an unidentified Black man, who was detained in a separate jail cell the night Christensen died, according to Shively.

Shively told *GCN* that police lied to him on several counts with regard to the events following Christensen's death. Shively said he went to Area D looking for Hopkins the day after Christensen's death and that police first told him they had no record of Mark Hopkins ever being there.

After persistent questioning, according to Shively, another officer said Hopkins had been bailed out that morning. But Hopkins had been released to Mass. General the night before. According to Shively, Hopkins says he was sedated at the hospital and brought into the police station at 8 a.m. the next day for a two-hour questioning session by two homicide and two internal affairs officers.

Shively said he went to Area D out of concern for Hopkins who has a history of



Charley Shively

suicidal gestures. "You'd think they'd have more concern about [a suicidal person]," said Shively. "But I think they were more concerned with covering their mistakes."

Hawkes, who told *GCN* he wants to arrange his lover's burial, said Christensen's mother, Ruth Perkins, has legal rights to the body. He said he knew Christensen for 14 years and lived with him during the last eight, while Christensen had only seen his mother two or three times in the last five years. "As a gay person, I feel like everything's been ripped out of me, and I feel complete and utter frustration because there's nothing I can do [about my rights] or at least no one is telling me what I can do," said Hawkes. □

Chicago

Continued from page 1

secure civil rights for all persons, the archdiocese did not support this particular ordinance and remains concerned that its wording may be construed to provide acceptance or approval of homosexual acts and may not provide adequate protection for rights of religious groups in the practice of their beliefs." Joseph Cardinal Bernadin helped derail the bill in 1986 by lobbying against it. According to Rich Whitehead of the Independent Gay and Lesbian Caucus, the cardinal took a more "moderate" approach to the bill this year in part because he feared it was a fight the church could not win.

Although opponents of the bill claimed the bill would foster the spread of AIDS, Garcia said the issue actually hastened the bill's passage. He said many aldermen who were likely to delay the bill for another year were swayed by the argument that AIDS-related discrimination would make life more difficult for lesbians and gay men in Chicago. "We made it clear that many of us wouldn't be around for another year. We told them that we needed the bill now."

Chicago activists had feared they could not overcome the setback suffered when mayor Harold Washington — a strong supporter of the bill and the community — died in Dec. 1987. But before his death, activists said, he laid the groundwork for the eventual passage of the bill. Garcia told *GCN* "there was great despair when Washington died. But he left us a great legacy. He knew about the empowerment of people. He knew the community had to work together and on its own, that the people must do it on their own. With his help we have become a stronger community."

Dittman said that in the hotly contested mayoral election — between Sawyer, Evans,

"Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be **TYPED** and **DOUBLE-SPACED**. Letters can be **NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES**. "Speaking Out" contributions can be **NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES**. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Defend reproductive freedom

Dear GCN:

January 22, 1989, marks the 16th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion. If we want to celebrate a 17th anniversary, it is time to organize.

Two days after the election of George Bush, the Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to reconsider *Roe v. Wade*. Operation Rescue is organizing anti-abortion actions on a grassroots level across the entire country. How can we counter Operation Rescue? What are our strategies for preserving legal abortion and restoring Medicaid funding and abortion rights for teenagers and women in prison? What are the implications of an anti-abortion Supreme Court? How will we as a community defend what we have and broaden reproductive rights for all women?

Many of us in the reproductive rights movement are asking these questions. It often seems that the issue of women's rights, once the bedrock of the fight for safe, legal and accessible abortion, has been lost in the debate between fetal rights and civil liberties. Women can become invisible in this argument.

The Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2) and the Boston Women's Healthbook Collective (BWHBC) are calling a community meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, January 22, to discuss these questions and to plan a strategy to defend reproductive freedom. Although we believe that the fight for reproductive freedom must encompass a broad spectrum of issues, we will be focusing on abortion because of the current direct attacks on this right. Our groups have historically taken a feminist, grassroots, multi-issue perspective in the fight for abortion rights. We believe that we must now take the initiative in reshaping the political debate on abortion, and in developing strategies to respond to increasing attacks on women's reproductive rights. We want the opportunity to discuss our ideas and possible plans with others in the feminist and progressive communities. We know that we are not the only ones worried about the imminent threat to legal abortion. We feel a strong need to counter the pessimism we see all around us, and to take the initiative in developing new perspectives, new strategies and new tactics in organizing.

It's time for feminists and our supporters to stand up for abortion rights. Please join us on January 22 to share ideas and plans for action. The meeting will be held from 1:00-5:00, at UMass., 100 Arlington Street, Boston, Room 221. For more information, call Marlene Fried (776-3454) or Susan Yanow (492-1032).

Sincerely,
Reproductive Rights Network
Boston Women's Healthbook
Collective
Boston, Mass.

Why whine about AIDS Action?

Dear GCN:

Laurie Livingston's complaints in the GCN interview of Dec. 4-10 are that the board of AIDS Action Committee (AAC) is not structured and does not function democratically, and it is so task-oriented that ethics are being compromised by political footsie. Many of us are frustrated because so many issues, vital to us, are held in abeyance because of AIDS. This does not mean we can try to damage an important AIDS organization with public criticism of

internal problems.

I think it is naive for any organization except a community board to hope for a board that is democratically elected and directly represents everyone. Goal-oriented, private, 501-C3 organizations must have boards consisting of people with two skills: (1) fund-raising; and (2) administrative or technical know-how. It is naive to think an organization can wait for enough representative experienced people to apply for middle and upper level executive or board positions. It is naive to think that 1400 volunteers could or should participate in decision-making. It is naive to think that compromise has no place in dealing with government.

In New York, we have some important organizations with democratically selected boards representing most segments of the lesbian and gay community; such boards are cumbersome and are not accomplishing organizational goals with dispatch or efficiency. We have other organizations with less democratically selected boards and executive staffs which operate with great expertness (and high administrative costs). Nothing is ever perfect. Our community's problems are urgent and require speed and skill. If we whine about undemocratic operation and representation now, we might not be around to participate in solving the important human rights issue facing us.

Sincerely,
Herbert I. Cohen, M.D.
New York, NY

GCN should respect and educate

Dear GCN:

Pam Mitchell's letter (in GCN's "Community Voices," November 20-26) offered an interesting counterpoint to the "Speaking Out" piece (titled "GCN: Commitment to community") on the opposite page, which I joined others in signing. The contrast between the two epitomizes GCN's diversity of opinion and viewpoints. I think this diversity is one of the paper's greatest strengths, and helps make GCN an exciting and vital community forum.

While I appreciate Pam's contribution to the paper, and especially her commitment to a feminist, class-conscious, anti-racist policy, I believe that her vision of GCN's mission and potential audience is unnecessarily narrow, and threatens the kind of diversity that I, and I assume other readers, value.

I'm particularly concerned by her haste to write off potential allies and her tendency to simplistically label community members. I believe that this approach alienates people unnecessarily and works both to limit GCN's readership and to fragment the lesbian/gay liberation movement.

I think that it is much too easy to label and dismiss those we disagree with. It is more difficult, but more valuable for us politically to respect people and to work to educate them, to help them grow.

It's possible to maintain a commitment to feminism, anti-racism, and class issues without labelling and condemning "white, affluent men" as a group. Please understand that I am not suggesting the "GCN oppresses affluent white men," but rather that we should be careful not to write people off who fall into that category. While affluent white gay men often enjoy certain privileges at the expense of others, they also suffer from an oppressive, homophobic system. If we can help such people to see that those privileges are part of a system that limits them as human beings, we strengthen our movement. Making the effort to educate middle class white gay men about sexism and racism pays off when those men begin to see the connections between their own oppression and the oppression of others. The same can be said about educating straight people of color about homophobia. While it is easy to dismiss people with narrower views, we build a stronger and broader movement when we take the time to educate them.

The best way to reach out to historically underrepresented or excluded groups such as women, poor people, and people of color is to involve them in the paper and to cover issues which affect them. It is desirable, and I believe, possible to reach out to include new people in our movement without dismissing and abandoning groups which have enjoyed better representation.

I hope that we can agree that our ultimate common goal is to build a just and liberated society in which we can work together as

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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brothers and sisters, and in which we no longer allow labels and barriers to divide and oppress us, and in which we can accept people's differences not as liabilities but as strengths. We may have a long way to go before we can realize this vision, but I hope that we can at least work to make it real within our own community.

Sincerely,
Mark O'Malley
Roslindale, Mass.

P.S. When my name was listed at the end of the "Speaking Out" piece, I was identified as a former/current Board member. While I was recently invited to run for Board membership, I unfortunately won't be able to serve on the Board this year, nor have I had that opportunity in the past.

Tired of GCN's elitist, know-it-all attitude

Dear GCN:

I have to admit that I have not read GCN for several months now, so it's funny that the issue I picked up at a friend's house was the one with the Speaking Out called "Commitment to Community." [Nov. 20-26]. Must have been fate. The people who wrote it said what I had been thinking for some time before I stopped reading the paper. I have a lot of respect for you people who put out GCN, and I know that you're overworked and underpaid (Who isn't?) But your elitist, know-it-all attitude is for the birds! I stopped reading GCN because I was tired of being screamed at, and tired of being treated like I couldn't think for myself, and REALLY tired of being told that only certain types of politically correct lesbians and gay men "counted" as part of the gay community.

I work for a progressive social change organization. I already know what people like me think. When I read a lesbian/gay paper, I want to read about all the people in my community — including gay Republicans — not just the people YOU think should be represented. I actually enjoy reading opinions different from my own and I like to hear from the people who hold them why they have those opinions. I don't want you telling me why they are right or wrong. I can make up my own mind, thank you.

Recently I was at a Thanksgiving dinner with seven other lesbians, all of them politically aware and active. Out of curiosity I asked which of them read GCN. Not one of them did, and it was for the same reasons that were in that Speaking Out. I'd think hard about that if I were you folks.

Sincerely,
Rachel Kunin
Cambridge, Mass.

Clearing Randall's name and work

Dear GCN:

I wish to clear my name and my work of the errors presented in the Oct. 16-22 issue of "Community Voices" via Liz O'Lexa's letter. Since part of the letter directly presents serious errors concerning my career and personal life (though unintended by its author I'm sure), it is libelous. Therefore, I am requesting that you print, the parts of this letter that shed some light on my work, as you see fit, or in its entirety. I shall be brief.

My work has not been "rejected by every feminist book publisher and some of the biggest underground comics publishers." I've tried a couple of them and have many to go. State-of-the-art presentations often have trouble breaking ground. The *Baltimore Gaypaper* just ran a two-page spread on my work and myself, not to mention the continued support of *On Our Backs*, and at this time several other avenues are opening favorably for my work. Did I mention my pending syndication?

I am an acquaintance of Ms. O'Lexa's, though not necessarily close, and I have discussed this matter with her. Though the inclusion of my name in her rather lengthy original letter may have been intended to somehow aid me professionally, what came through was damaging and somewhat slanderous and stands to be corrected. For the limited time I've seriously pursued publishing venues, it's too early to say work "may never be published." Besides, y'all ain't seen nothin' yet.

Most Cordially,
Jacki Randall
Baltimore, Md.

Balderdash!

Dear Warden:

This letter is in response to your rejection of the Nov. 6-12 issue of GCN at your prison. In your rejection, which appeared in the Dec. 4-10 issue, you state that the article entitled "Direct Actions New Direction at the FDA," was allegedly unacceptable because it "encourages activity which may lead to group disruption."

An investigation has revealed that you subsequently allowed numerous other publications, eg *Newsweek*, *The Post*, *The Times*, etc. to be received at your prison, which also described in detail the events that transpired in the GCN article, which would indicate that you really rejected the GCN arbitrarily, because of your own homophobic views.

This rejection reflects a blatant disregard for the First Amendment rights of the prisoners who receive GCN at LaTuna. The prisoners deem your rejection as balderdash.

Sincerely,
James Magner
Memphis, TN

'Pro-lifers' for Planned Parenthood

[GCN received a copy of this letter, sent Dec. 7, 1988.]

Pro-Life Action Network
P.O. Box 1300
Arlington, MA 02174

Dear Pro-life Action Network Members:

We followed your anti-abortion demonstrations of Oct. 22 and 29 with keen interest. We hoped that your group would be able to attract a large number of demonstrators to each event, and were pleased when this was the case.

Our group received pledges from individuals who gave a specific amount of money for each 'pro-life' person who participated on those two Saturdays. These pledges have been collected and we have more than \$1,200. This money has been donated to Planned Parenthood, and specifically designated for the fund which assists low-income women who need abortions.

We are grateful for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Members of the Black Triangle
Affinity Group
Cambridge, Mass.

Homeless empowerment

Dear GCN:

I am a lesbian activist who has spent many years as a homeless activist, working and living with the homeless, primarily in Washington, D.C. It was there that I saw the particular burden of being homeless and gay, and the kind of treatment that lesbians and gays are subjected to at the shelters, by both staff and other residents.

It has always been a dream of mine to open a shelter situation that lesbians and gay men could come to and be supported and treated with pride, and be empowered as lesbians and gay men. I had put this on the back burner until recently, when a homeless lesbian came to interview for a room in my household, speaking very clearly about the atrocities she was subjected to as a lesbian on the streets.

The winter cold has pushed me to pursue others who might be interested in developing this idea into something real. Please give me a call at (617) 524-1303 with ideas, financial contributions, suggestions of space, etc. Folks from the streets are especially encouraged to call.

Sincerely,
Jan M. Zimmerman
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

What's it like in prison?

Dear GCN:

A man gets a visit from his child. The child asks him, "Daddy, what's it like in prison?" The father replies, "Oh, it's a place for someone who has been bad. Everything is going to be alright." Just to keep the child satisfied for the time being.

This is a lie, of course. Pain, hurt, sorrow, and most of all, anger fill the hearts and souls of every person behind these walls. Especially this time of the year. Guys make the statement all the time, "Prison is what you make it." This, my friends, is not true.

The lack of understanding, and most of all the lack of love, or being allowed to show any love, causes general emptiness over all. If you show love towards another man in prison then you're treated as a "sissy," "punk", or "fag." If we the incarcerated could show more love toward one another, I'm sure this would make the whole thing a little easier and less empty and painful.

Sure, we play ball, read, write, put on a front, but late at night it is the same people who you can hear nearby crying and complaining because of the emptiness and anger they feel.

There's no hope, no light on the other side of the fence, we sometimes feel. Some take their own lives because the loneliness got to the point where it became unbearable. You don't hear about these, but they happen a lot.

The ability to love is a natural feeling and it was meant to be used. But it cannot be if we are afraid of what the others will think.

Some contact with people outside the walls would be a great help in all of this.

Thanks for the voice,
Larry Eugene Brown
477709 Box 113 H4-A-16
1150 SW Allapattah Rd.
Indiantown, FL 34956

Endangerment to my health

Dear GCN:

This is to inform you and the ACLU Prison Project, the people that have been most helpful in my struggle and non-disruptive fight against the Bureau of Prison's non-conformity to community standards concerning medical treatment afforded to prisoners with HIV/ARC/AIDS, that since 12-14-88 I have undertaken a hunger strike protest. I am protesting non-violently: (1) the medical, therapeutic and nutritional treatment, care and counseling NOT offered to prisoners, and (2) the retaliatory treatment and harassment that I have received since filing my original lawsuit against the BOP for not caring for the education and treatment of HIV/ARC/PWA prisoners.

They have refused to allow me legal and postal materials to continue my lawsuit and to communicate with other prisoners (through the ACLU-Prison Project, 1616 P St NW, Washington DC 20036) who may want to become part of my class action suit. Please contact Judy Greenspan at the ACLU if interested in joining.

Any kind assistance to pressure the Bureau of Prisons into allowing me to continue my work would be sincerely appreciated. Letters of support and protest may be sent to: Michael Quinlan, Director Bureau of Prisons, Washington DC 20534.

Kenneth M. Young
39831-080
Box 1700 BCS-1
Phoenix, AZ 85027

A few things on the subject of 'homophobia'

Dear GCN:

I just want to say a few things on the subject of homophobia. There seems to be a common misconception among the 'straights' that a homosexual relationship is based purely upon sexual relations between the couple. That is just not so. I know a lot of 'straights' read this paper (in prison, at least, where they 'share' gay peoples' papers) which is why I'm writing this.

A homosexual relationship is just like a heterosexual one. The bond that is created between two people is one of mutual hope, trust, love, and openness of one's feelings. Sexual relations is only one part of the relationship.

Just because ones sexual preference is a person of the same sex does not necessarily mean that sex has to be on the mind forever. How can others tell us how to manage our lives when in reality they cannot manage their own??

Why should we have to live in fear of being harassed by people who have no understanding?

United we stand, divided we fall,
Clara D. Wittler
A 151937 (357)
PO Box 8540
Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

Thank You Boston Women's Fund and National Community Funds

GCN recently recieved two large grants, to support our educational activities.

The Boston Women's Fund grant will fund the lesbian portion of our special Black History Month issue(s). The issue(s) will be coordinated by a group of Black lesbians and gay men, which has begun meeting. The next meeting of the coordinating group will take place Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. Call GCN (617) 426-4469 for the meeting location.

The Boston Women's Fund focuses on projects that work for social change through organizing women on their own behalf to address economic, sexual, racial, age and social inequities. For more information, write the Boston Women's Fund, 31 St. James Avenue, Suite 902, Boston, MA 02116.

The grant from National Community Funds will be used for general support. National Community Funds is a national donor-advised grantmaking program, operated by the New York-based Funding Exchange. For more information, write the Funding Exchange, 666 Broadway, Suite 500, New York, N.Y. 10012.

Job openings News Editor News Reporter/Circulation Coordinator Promotions/Classified Advertising

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News Reporter/Circulation Coordinator: Research, investigate and write weekly news stories, primarily about national issues, and, as necessary, stories about Boston/New England. Share responsibility for coordinating weekly mailings of GCN to all subscribers and maintaining computerized subscription list. Qualifications: Strong writing ability, ability to work with deadlines, knowledge of lesbian and gay issues, ability to work well with volunteers, knowledge of computers, attention to detail. Deadline for application: January 27.

Promotions/Classified Advertising: Use direct mail marketing, exchange advertising, free distribution, renewal campaigns and other strategies to increase paid circulation of GCN. Log and process weekly classified advertising. Qualifications: Strong writing, administrative, creative and organizational skills. Experience in marketing, design or public relations a plus. Deadline for application: January 17.

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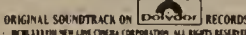
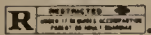
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The lesbian wave at the Supreme Court civil disobedience, Oct. 13. From JEB's slideshow.

March

Continued from back page

the threat to make us invisible — in this case by documenting and validating what a BIG DEAL the March really was.

At a time when gay men and lesbians are getting the shit kicked out of us — individually and in the local and national policy arenas — we need ways to gather together and try to feel strong. I hope the show itself will help fuel the activist energy generated by the March. JEB will be taking it on the road in the coming months, and I imagine wonderful reunions all across the country of people who put on benefits for the March way back in 1986. Maybe now they've formed a local ACT UP chapter or a group to overturn their state's sodomy laws. But whatever your relationship to the March, when *For*

Love and For Life comes to your town, make sure you get to see it. Whether you were in D.C. or not, it's a piece of history you won't want to miss.

JEB will be bringing *For Love and For Life to Boston January 21, 1989, as a benefit for GCN. See ad on backpage for details.*

People interested in bringing *For Love and For Life to their community can contact JEB by calling Moonforce Productions in Washington D.C. at (202) 526-0049. □*

Joseph Beam

Continued from page 1

Diane Stroman, told *GCN* that no evidence of violence was found. Stroman said an autopsy was being conducted on the body and that the cause of death will be announced by the end of January.

Beam was the editor of *In The Life: A Black Gay Anthology*, the first collection of writings by Black gay men. He also edited two issues of *Black/Out*, the quarterly magazine of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG). At the time of his death, Beam was working on a sequel to *In The Life*. He also wrote for a number of lesbian and gay publications, including *GCN*. Beam's homage to James Baldwin — "Not a Bad Legacy, Brother" — appeared in the Dec. 20, 1987 *GCN* centerspread.

From 1983 to 1986 he worked at Giovanni's Room, the Philadelphia lesbian and gay bookstore. He left the store in 1986 to devote himself to writing and editing.

As *GCN* goes to press, a memorial service is being held Jan. 5 at St. Peter's Church of Christ in Philadelphia. Black lesbians' and gays from around the country are gathering there to remember Beam's life. Several spoke to *GCN* about his work.

James Roberts, an AIDS educator and a contributor to *In The Life*, said, "He was the first person to put together a book of Black gay male authors writing for and about Black gay men. The book has had and will continue to have a positive impact on the self-esteem of Black lesbians and gays everywhere."

Barbara Smith, a writer and publisher of *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*, said, "I used to refer to Joe as a spiritual brother of mine. He did such a huge amount in the short time he was here. I will miss him for the rest of my life. I also felt he was such an incredible ally for me — we were trying to do such similar kinds of work. His work was actually closer to mine than any Black woman I know. It is very rare to have such a relationship."

"We consider James Baldwin and Richard Bruce Nugent to be the fathers of the Black gay literary genre; and I consider Joseph Beam to have been the nurturer of this rapidly growing literary movement," said Craig Harris, an AIDS educator and writer. "As editor of both *Black/Out* magazine and *In The Life*, Joe considered his job to be much more than reviewing manuscripts and copy editing. He was a comrade who always offered constructive criticism, advice and encouragement. He has not only left us a literary legacy, but like an expert craft-person he has woven together the lives of lesbians and gay men who were his contributors, his readers' and, most importantly, his friends, into a network of support which helps us to overcome our grief at this great personal loss and continue to do the work that was his mission in life."

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to a scholarship fund established to help first-year creative writing students at Temple Univ. in Philadelphia. Make checks payable to Joseph F. Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund and send c/o Marie Inyang, Esq., 12 South St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

A number of tributes to Joe Beam will appear in an upcoming edition of *GCN*. To contribute memories or photographs or anything else to this project, please contact *GCN* as soon as possible. □

Correction

Due to stress brought on by a heavy pre-vacation production schedule, the art director (potentially a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown) inadvertently ran a photo of a man thought to be Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar on the cover of *GCN*'s Dec. 25-Jan. 7 issue. It wasn't he — we don't know who it was. But we apologize to Mr. Almodovar for any embarrassment or damage to his career that may arise as a result of this slip-up.

Political prisoners and lesbian resistance

An interview with Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn and Susan Rosenberg

By Jennie McKnight

Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, and Linda Evans are three of six political activists being held in the D.C. jail on charges of conspiracy "to oppose, obstruct or change the foreign and domestic policies of the U.S. government through violent or illegal means." They are specifically charged with aiding and abetting the bombing of a number of military/government buildings, resulting in property damage but no injuries. Although their case has not received much attention from the mainstream press, they are well-known within the prison system. (When I called to make arrangements to visit them, a Dept. of Corrections official said "Oh, you want to see the Capitol Bombers.")

Laura and Linda are lesbians who have been active in the lesbian/gay and women's movements. And along with Susan, they have acted in support of Puerto Rican independence and Black liberation, among other issues. I interviewed them in the D.C. jail on Oct. 11, 1988 when I was in town for the various lesbian/gay and AIDS activist events taking place that weekend. It was the first time I had ever visited the jail, despite the fact that I had lived about 10 blocks away from it for over five years. And I felt a deep sense of irony as I drove from the highly-energized civil disobedience in Rockville, Maryland — where activists were risking spending a few hours or days in jail — to see women who would spend the majority of their lives in prison.

I also felt an ambivalence about the interviews themselves, about talking only with "political prisoners." While I think the treatment these women have received sends a chilling message to those engaged in militant political activism, I also feel uncomfortable about the distinction between "political prisoners" and prisoners who are considered the "general population." It makes it easy to think that politics have nothing to do with the justice system as a whole and who goes to prison in this country.

I was not allowed to interview all three women at once, so the following are excerpts of separate interviews. They do not appear in the order in which they were conducted. The other three co-defendants in the case, who are also in the D.C. jail, are Marilyn Buck, Alan Berkman and Tim Blunk.

...

Because of bad communication on the part of the prison officials overseeing the interviews, Linda and I were only able to talk for a few minutes. Both Laura and Susan had said they thought Linda's comments were especially important for GCN readers because she has been such an outspoken lesbian activist.

Linda was already serving a 45-year sentence on other charges related to her activism when the conspiracy charges were brought against her. Anytime she is out of her cell she must wear handcuffs and leg shackles.

Jennie: Since we're so limited for time I thought maybe you should just say what's on your mind.

Linda: One thing that's real important to me — number one — I love *GCN*. I'm so glad you have a prisoners' program. I've gotten the newspaper almost since I was busted and, of course, I'd followed it before then, but it's really important; and I've always spread it around. There are all kinds of lesbians on my floor that love to read it. We all really appreciate it.

One of the things I've felt was important about our case is that four of us are women, and it means something that women have been indicted for fighting the government. And two of us are out lesbians. Both Laura and I — from the beginning of being busted — have made that very plain in all of our public statements, and in all of the literature that we put out about the case. We have worked in the gay and lesbian community as well as around women's issues in the women's liberation movement for years and years, and to us this is very connected to why we consider ourselves anti-imperialists and are willing to fight to change the government as a whole.

I consider myself a revolutionary, trying to change things *fundamentally*. So I feel like it's important for me as a lesbian to talk to other women and other lesbians about why it is that we need such fundamental changes. Why I don't think that reforming the educational system, or welfare programs, or even people's consciousness is going to be enough. The kind of oppression that we face, as women and as dykes, is so *basic* to how the system runs. [Until we restructure our whole society] we're never going to have a chance for equality, much less liberation, much less [the ability] to really maximize our potential as human beings — to live freely with other women, and not be beat up, all the stuff that everybody that reads *GCN* is so familiar with in our daily lives.

It's important for people who feel that they can come out to come out publicly. I love National Coming Out Day.

Jennie: It's today.

Linda: It is today! I think it's real important. And everybody can't do it because of the kind of oppression that we run into over and over again. But for those of us who feel strong enough, who have the kind of support that is necessary to be able to do it, I think it's very important because it is very political. [Coming out addresses] the kind of oppression we face every day of our lives.

Jennie: Do you have any thoughts about the civil disobedience action to protest the lack of AIDS treatments that happened at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today and the new kind of militant AIDS activism?

Linda: I love it! I only wish I could have been there today. The slogan "Action Equals Life" is a really positive slogan, because to me revolution is about taking power over your own life. And you have to start wherever you can. Coming out itself is one. But for people to really band together and to act collectively in a militant way is a very empowering thing to do. That's one of the things I have watched most happily — all the ACT UP stuff, the ACT NOW coalition that has formed. Militance is part of being serious about your goals. It isn't just a protest, it isn't just symbolic. People really are trying to take power over their lives immediately, and then, eventually, politically over our society to make the kind of basic changes we need.

I just recently understood that ACT NOW meant [AIDS Coalition to] Network,

Organize and Win. One of my favorite slogans is "Build to Win," which is a slogan from the Black Liberation Army. They have always had a perspective that really is about victory. It's really important that the gay liberation movement has taken that on in such a serious way — that *winning* is what we really want to do, not just make a protest or make reforms.

Jennie: You have emphasized the importance of how people experience their daily lives, could you talk about conditions here, your experience as a dyke....

Linda: One thing I'd like to talk about is AIDS. In prison the effect of AIDS is devastating. The way I've encountered it was in Pleasanton [Federal Penitentiary] where Laura and I worked together. We had made a decision [to refuse to be tested for HIV antibodies.] We felt it was worth going to the hole [isolation] over, and [we knew we faced] possibly not even getting out of the hole. A lot of times what they'll do is just keep you there until you actually do the test. Other prisoners were also [resisting the test].

But the *outcome* of the testing is what's really insidious, because people are being denied parole — they're being denied release. They're being kept in prison to *die*, instead of being released into the community. And one of the things about having AIDS in prison is that it *is* a death sentence, because there's no treatment. I mean on the street it's hard enough to struggle for alternative treatments, to try to get the FDA to release the treatments that are available, to be able to have any kind of control over your own situation.

But in prison, you're immediately isolated, so you have none of the human contact that relieves stress and that helps you have a positive attitude — which is a lot of what it takes to fight anything like that. And you have no treatment at all. You're basically isolated and left to die. And I think you probably die quicker. And your life is absolutely miserable. [People with AIDS in prison] have no programs and no hope.

Jennie: How about AIDS education efforts?

Linda: There's nothing. There is nothing. The sole piece of education that's done in the federal system is a video that is completely inadequate. I mean, I know some things about AIDS from just being part of the movement — even though I'm in prison — and the video really doesn't explain anything. The federal government has a position that drugs and sex don't exist in prison. So *forget* anything like distributing condoms! They won't even tell you how to clean a needle. They won't teach people how to clean works. Bleach you can't even get. So forget anything about sex education or anything about safe sex, because they just pretend it doesn't exist.

So it means that the education that is done is the most superficial. [The video offers] nothing about prevention, and only tries to alleviate some of the most mythologic aspects of people's fears about AIDS. And it doesn't do that very well. The video is like 20 minutes long, boring, done at the end of a long day of orientation, and nobody pays any attention to it.

And *prisoners'* efforts to educate each other about AIDS are completely opposed and squashed. I know this is true in the state system, because some of our political comrades in New York state — Kathy Boudin and David Gilbert — have tried to start these programs, and they have been immediately transferred away from the collectives of other prisoners that they were working with. So it just disperses all the energy from the program itself. [So], even though people are dying of AIDS at the highest rate in the whole prison system, there's nothing. It's an epidemic on the street, but it's really an epidemic inside also — especially in state prisons where there's probably a much higher incidence of people coming in with habits, with drug histories, etc., than in some of the places where I've been in the federal system.

Jennie: How have people with AIDS and ARC and who are HIV antibody-positive interacted with other prisoners?

Linda: They're ostracized and transferred. That's what happens. Most of the people I've met that have had AIDS or ARC in prison have been gay men, and their situation *anyway* is so abysmal, because they're used as prostitutes; they're attacked. It's very hard for them to have any kind of lasting relationships. And generally what happens is that as soon as it's found out [that they have AIDS, ARC or are antibody-positive] there's rumors about them that are very destructive. They're attacked more and ostracized more than [they were] just for be-

ing gay. And then, they're transferred into some kind of medical facility where they're isolated and left to die.

Susan Rosenberg spent almost two years in the Lexington High Security Unit — a state-of-the-art behavior modification women's prison which was closed last year when a judge ruled the conditions there were unacceptable. I was struck by the obvious toll that experience had taken on her, which doesn't come through fully when the interview is rendered in print.

Susan was also required to conduct the interview in chains. Her sentence is 58 years.

Susan: I just want to tell you I love your paper (*GCN*). I've been reading it for two years, and I like it better than probably 90 percent of the papers I read. It would be good for your readers to understand that as a group of people and as a case we're completely dedicated to gay and lesbian liberation. All of us. And it's part of who we are and our politics. But in terms of the most explicit identification I feel like Linda's has been the longest and clearest and out the most. And she suffers the most as a result of it.

Jennie: I know one of the things people would be very interested to hear about is the experience you had at Lexington. I don't know if that's something you're interested in talking about...

Susan: Yes, I did want to talk about Lexington, though I'm certainly getting tired of talking about Lexington. How can I talk about it in a few minutes? Lexington really was an experiment in psychological torture by the U.S. government against women political prisoners. The kind of forces in our government that were responsible for Lexington are the very forces that have brought this case. I would call them "counter-insurgency forces" — elements in the government that want to teach a lesson.

Lexington was an experiment, and it didn't work, in the sense that I think people in the U.S. who have some growing consciousness around human rights really struggled to expose it. The government didn't want to pursue it in quite as blatant a fashion, because it was so clear what it was. The thing is that it's been done in many countries all over the world for many years and there have been other forms of really profound repression against political prisoners. This wasn't new, but what was new about it was that they wanted to institute it as a method and form of incarceration for political people. And that's what got set back [when the unit was closed.]

Jennie: Maybe you could talk a little bit about the specific conditions — how they contributed to what you call "the experiment" — and the physical, emotional and psychological effects they had on you.

Susan: Well, it was a sensory deprivation unit and there was what's called "small group isolation." Small group isolation has now been condemned by most human rights organizations around the world — including the United Nations — as a form of "malevolent maltreatment" — that's the terminology they use. There were five [of us] who lived together in a 16-cell underground unit for almost two years with no social contact with anyone other than the Bureau of Prisons officials. Immediate family were allowed to visit for a limited number of hours a month. No work. No recreation. No life. And I think that in a dark basement that was a hell of a thing — in the sense that you have to rely almost solely on what you have in your heart and your mind in order to survive. That's a problem for *all* prisoners, but when you're in "general population" you at least have social interaction. What they wanted to do in Lexington was bury us alive. So the conditions were designed to do that.

Fortunately for us they put three political women together, so our strength was in our unity. And we could survive that, I think, because we really *understood* why they were doing it to us. I was one of the first two women to get there, with Alejandrina Torres, a Puerto Rican *independentista* and prisoner of war. She and I were brought there together, and for the first two-and-a-half months were the only people there. When we were first brought there they told me that the only way I would be able to leave the unit [or get transferred to another prison] was if I changed my political associations and affiliations.

Jennie: Right out the ~?

Susan: Right out there! I couldn't quite believe it. You know, I thought, this is America. Hey, you know...I tried so hard to



Linda Evans

get them to put it in writing. So I put it in writing and made an affidavit about it because it was just so obvious.

I still have not yet fully determined all the effects. I think the first, the main effects are physical. You get sick. You would think that you wouldn't have a lot of confrontation, being in isolation and being with the police 24 hours a day, under 24-hour visual and auditory surveillance ... *everything* is a confrontation. To get a cup of water, you know, you had to have a fight because you couldn't get it yourself. To go outside for an hour a day — which was what we were allowed — was a big fight everyday.

So the tendency is to narrow your needs more and more and more so that you don't have as much conflict. And because we were really in a rage quite a lot of the time with all this happening to us, everyone did get sick in some physical form. I lost 25 pounds there. I had a lot of vision problems as a result. And Alejandrina — she had a heart condition to begin with — significantly worsened as a result and had to be put on medication. And Silvia Baraldini, the other woman who was there — also a political prisoner — developed a rare form of uterine cancer. I wouldn't say [the cancer] was totally induced by the conditions of Lexington, but the neglect was very profound there, and it created a life-threatening situation for her.

And so we all suffered from what they call "classical" physical symptoms of solitary confinement: dizziness, heart palpitations, weight loss, fatigue — because of the inactivity and isolation. Unless you dropped something on the ground so you could hear it, it was silent. It was white. It was 11 surveillance cameras. Constant glare. And nothing.

You know, the body goes before the spirit. And it definitely happened to us. And I can only think and say that all the efforts to expose Lexington and to stop it really made a difference.

I think it's harder to talk about the mental level. But I think fundamentally we were able to sort of *resist* what their designs were because they had a group of us together. And it meant that we could reinforce our womanness. That was a very big deal, that we were women and we wouldn't let them take that away from us.

Jennie: Did you have any ability to communicate with each other?

Susan: Yes, all the time. And we *did*. And we



(L-R) Alejandrina Torres, Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini in the Women's High Security Unit at Lexington

have any contact with other prisoners?

Susan: The thing that's weird about it is that we [Susan and Linda] live in general population units although we are locked up in our cells. So we are in solitary confinement in the physical space, but there's a hole in my door that's three feet wide by six inches; and I live right next to the shower, so 140 people walk by. It's a strange way to live, but it's definitely a social environment. I've seen more people here in four months than I have in four years of prison.

Jennie: As a political prisoner, what's your experience been here with general population prisoners? And how are you treated differently by the people who run the jail?

Susan: [Well, here's an example of our experience.] This is a Black city and a Black jail. Out of 140 people on my block, there are six white women prisoners. That's it. So when we got here, the administration put out to the general population — they actually had meetings on the tiers where we were going to be housed — that we were in the Ku Klux Klan, and that we were rightwingers and that we had tried to bomb Jesse Jackson.

ministration should take us out of special handling.

So the prison administration and the U.S. government understand that they have to keep us isolated. In this situation, doing that actually backfired because it drew more attention to us. But you know that's how it always works with these people [officials]. They're smart and they have state power but they're also stupid.

Laura Whitehorn is the only one of the three who was not shackled when we met. She is not subject to this "special handling," in part because she is not actually serving time for a conviction. She has been held for over three years awaiting trial, which means she has spent more time in pre-trial detention than any other political prisoner in this country.

After we met, Laura sent GCN a couple of her poems and a copy of the solidarity statement she and her five co-defendants wrote which was read at the lesbian and gay rally held outside the Dept. of Health and Human Services Oct. 10. The interview picks up here after Laura described her early involvement in feminist activism in Boston — including a story on the seizing of a Harvard building on International Women's Day in 1971. The action led to the establishment of a women's center in Cambridge.

Laura: It was in [the early 1970's] that I came out. I didn't really recognize my oppression as a woman first. First I recognized in my life that I hated racism. I was part of the civil rights movement, and then in the '70s after being in the anti-war movement and supporting the Black Panther Party, I recognized that it was my own oppression as a woman that had opened me up to identifying with other oppressed peoples — to hate injustices like racism. For me coming out was a very political act.

Jennie: How has your being a lesbian affected your incarceration?

Laura: Two ways, I think. One is: because I'm a lesbian, my politics are so living and breathing to me. It's like I'm fighting for my life. I identify with the struggles [of AIDS activists] that are going on in the streets of the city right now today, because we're fighting for our lives....

The other thing is that because I love women so much, being incarcerated with women is a very painful experience. The oppression of women is so raw and blatant:

who gets arrested, who's on drugs because they have no options in their lives, women separated from their children, prostitutes who shouldn't be locked up at all.... [I feel] also, however, a great joy in being with women.

Another thing, of course, is that lesbian relationships are so distorted in prison — for many, many reasons. The prison police permit [lesbian relationships] to a certain extent. As long as you'll do certain things, like [take on] roles.... The prison police are the mothers and fathers and we're the babies. Also you're in a position of intense vulnerability because if you get a disciplinary report for homosexuality, it's considered a very serious act. Sex is permitted, but sexuality is smashed.

Jennie: As long as we're on the subject of your interaction with other women prisoners, what's it been like to be a "political prisoner"?

Laura: Well, I was locked up for a year or so in general prison population with regular prisoners. So I wrote to friends and asked them to send me some political literature to hand out. But most of it was irrelevant to the other women prisoners. The words were so big and the sentences were so long that when I re-read them, I couldn't understand them either. So I had to communicate who I was through how I acted.

In here [D.C. jail] it's been even more interesting. The jail refers to us as terrorists, telling the other prisoners that we are dangerous. People weren't permitted to speak to us. They told lies to people about who we were. They told them that we had threatened Jesse Jackson's life.

But some of the women knew me from other jails and knew that that wasn't true. And then as people began to be curious and began to talk to us, it became clear that that's not who we were. We spend a lot of time pointing out that it's the government that kills and does things illegally, and is allowing people to die of AIDS, etc.

There's a continuing attempt to keep us divided from other prisoners. It's so hard for them to do this because of our burning passion to talk to people about who we are, and also because the prisoners here have a lot of heart. They're not afraid. When we were first in here there were signs up that said: "Do not go near Cell 1." And people would do it anyway. It's a learning experience for us too....

They lead us around in shackles, trying to make us look — even to the other prisoners

Continued on page 12



Susan Rosenberg

sang. We did as much as we could to have a collective life of resistance to what they were doing.

Jennie: You have written about the sexual violation of women prisoners....

Susan: They really did that at a heavy level in Lexington. Before Alejandrina and I were moved to Lexington they did a forced rectal and cavity search of us. It was an actual attack on us. I think they knew that there was no contraband. They told us that they were doing it because they were looking for contraband. We asked them to do an X-ray — which is an option in the Bureau of Prisons so that you don't get sexually abused by them. It was a very serious, painful, disgusting experience, and it took five women to subdue us enough for them to conduct this ridiculous search — which wasn't a search at all. I think the point of it was to create some kind of terror so that when we got to Lexington we and the other women there lived with the *threat* of that happening at any point along the way. And the sexual harassment and invasion at Lexington was a constant thing.

Jennie: You said you were essentially in isolation here [in the D.C. jail] now. Do you

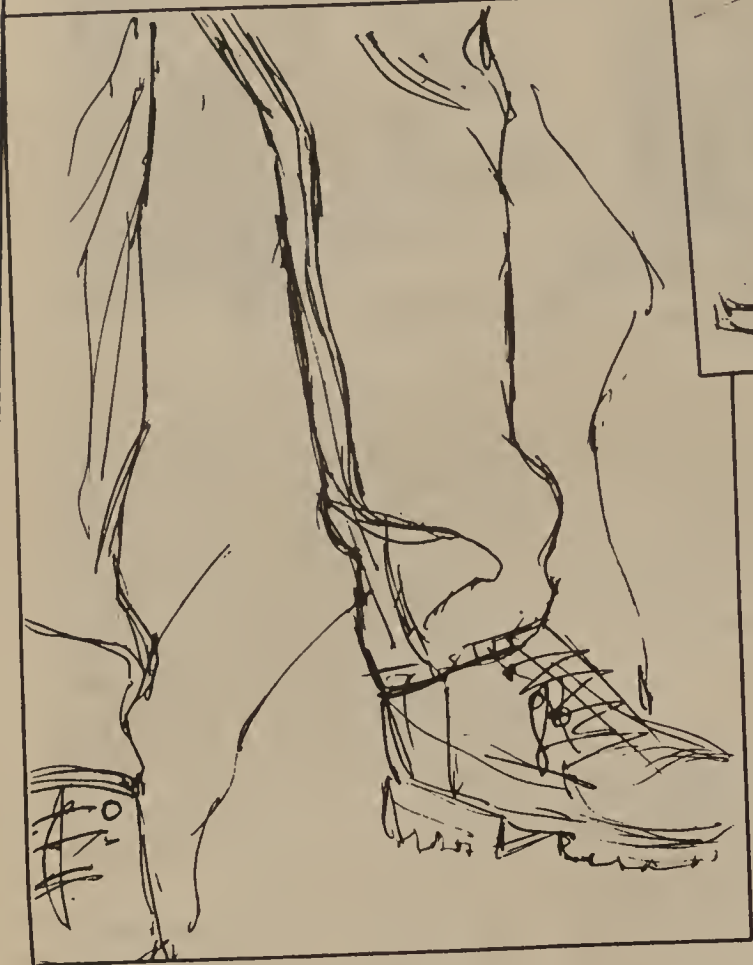
So in the beginning we felt very threatened. And of course it's a *total* affront to us, since the opposite is what we're about and what we stand for.

Given the fear induced by the administration about us, it took a long time for us to break that down. I ended up standing at my door listening to a guard talking to a group of women about how I was in the Klan and screaming at the top of my lungs, "This is a goddammed lie! We're in prison because we're against racism, we're against this system and everything that you as a guard stand for!" Everybody on the block turned around and looked, and over the next week, people started to come to my door and say "Who the hell are you? What are you doing here?"

I would say now people have a lot of respect for us, and understand better. We have to struggle; we have to organize. And that's part of why they put us in isolation — in the control units — because they know we represent something different. The population sees that. At this point, people come by and we have a lot of good talk. We've given out books. In that sense I feel very good. When we were petitioning the judge around our classification, 60 women on our block signed a petition saying that they didn't feel afraid of us and they thought that the ad-



Laura Whitehorn



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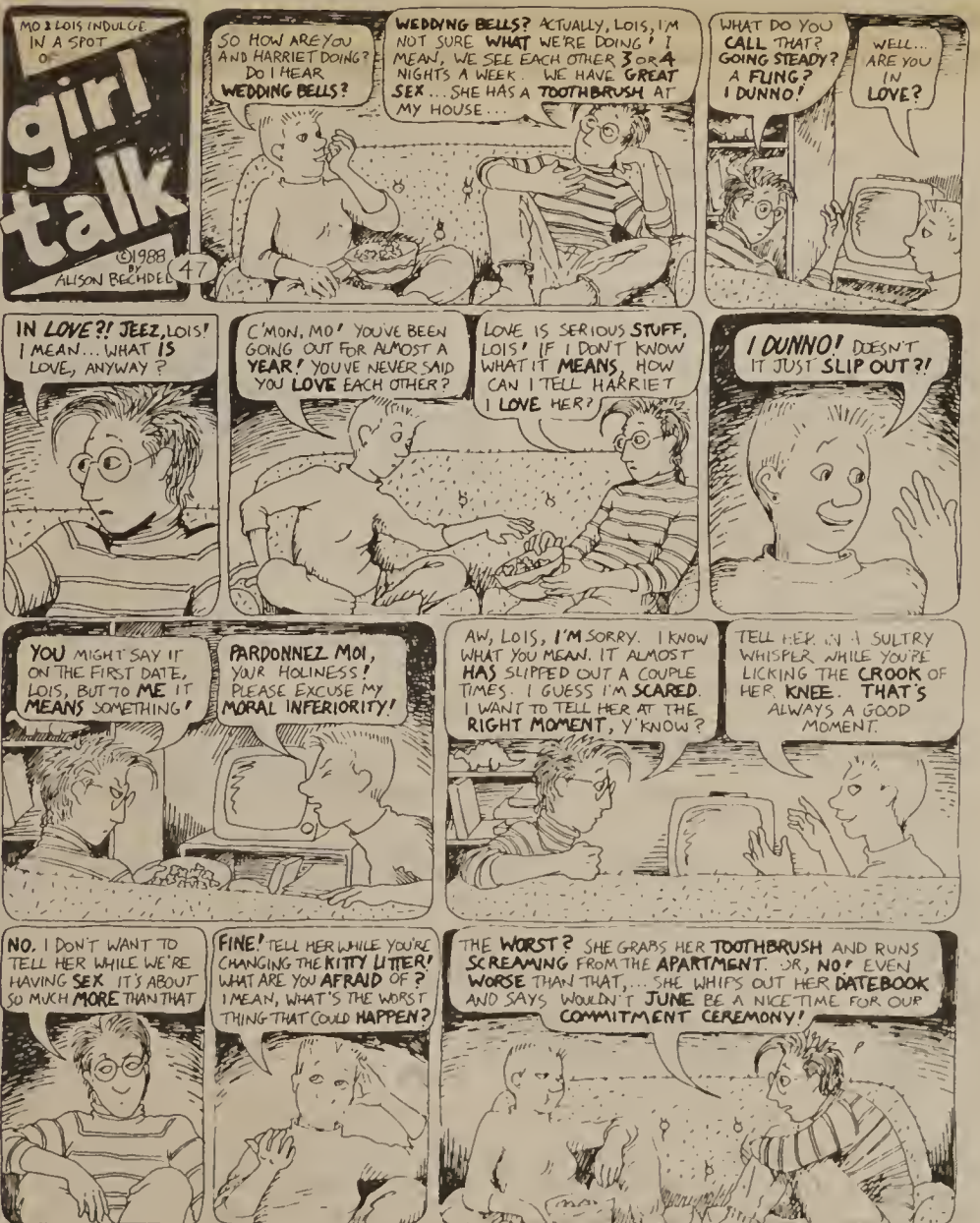
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Dykes to Watch Out For



Prisoners

Continued from centerspread

— as if we were dangerous. It's part of the government's way of saying there are no social movements in this country. There are no injustices, therefore there are no political prisoners. There are just dangerous terrorists and criminals. That's the basic thing — more than the actual prison conditions. That's how they try to keep us separated from each other too.

...We're down the hall from Oliver North's trial. He goes into the courtroom wearing a flag. They're putting cameras and a bullet-proof shield in our courtroom and we're wearing chains. We're surrounded by marshalls, brought to the court by helicopters, and sirens and all.... The message to the movement is that if you really struggle, you're going to get squashed.

Jennie: I was at the civil disobedience at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this morning where the goal was to "seize control" of the FDA. Have you got any thoughts about the recent AIDS activism and its sense of urgency?

Laura: I have great respect... When I opened the *Washington Post* the other day and saw the picture of the Quilt, I just started to cry immediately. I think that's been very moving.... The gay movement is involved in this struggle for the right to live.

I'm so excited about the demonstration today. I feel like the gay movement over the last year has supplied a tremendous shot in the arm to the whole anti-imperialist movement, saying when you fight for your life, you *fight* for your life. And that's basically what *we're* talking about. For the past 20 years I've tried to dedicate myself to not sitting back and watching things that are illegal and immoral, but trying to do something about it. That's why we say "Resistance is not a crime." That's sort of our slogan.

Sisterhood is Powerful

Brenda has one cigarette, and shares it with a woman she's never seen before, who sits on her bedroll, abscesses freshly bandaged, thin and shaken.

Sisterhood is Powerful.

Lurinda brags she's hard, won't give away a thing without a trade. But she's the first to slide into the cell next door to see that the new arrival, withdrawing, has what she needs to get her through the sickness. Sisterhood is Powerful.

And I, the communist, have learned to give not just the easy things but the hard, to give what I didn't think I had enough of, to give of myself. The only commodity left to me. you'd have to see it to believe how sisterhood is powerful.

Laura Whitehorn □

Chicago

Continued from page 3

ineffective and unwilling to take a strong stand on issues of importance to the community. "The bill's passage changes all that," said Garcia. "He needed to prove his ability to get council votes and he needed to connect with the community. He did both."

Despite Evans' long time support for the bill and Sawyer's recent support of the bill, activists say many white gay men and lesbians may vote for white candidates Bloom or Daley. "The community is still deeply divided along racial lines," said Garcia. Other activists told *GCN* that Daley and Bloom hope to capitalize on divisions among lesbian/gay, Black and other progressive voters to elect a white candidate.

□ filed from Boston



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Safer Sex and Drug Use Guidelines

Assessing individual risk for AIDS and other illnesses is the first step towards using safer sex and drug use guidelines. Only you and your partner(s) can decide how much risk is acceptable — take stock of your sexual and drug use histories.

Be aware that the highest concentrations of HIV (the virus widely thought to cause AIDS) are found in blood and semen. The most common routes of HIV transmission are through sharing needles and unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

GCN's guidelines come from a wide variety of sources aimed at various communities concerned about the AIDS epidemic and health in general. We want to confront the prevailing "no sex is best" attitude and present an approach that is as sex-positive as possible.

Information for gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities

Safer sex can include: massage, hugging, kissing, erotic talk, phone sex, masturbation (solo, pairs and groups), using your own vibrators, dildos or other sex toys and s/m, butch/fem role-playing, fantasy scenes, bondage and other activities that do not involve the exchange of semen or blood (including menstrual blood).

Do not allow a partner's semen or blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) to enter your vagina, anus, mouth or breaks in your skin.

Use condoms for fucking (anal and vaginal intercourse), for licking/sucking penises and for covering dildos and other sex toys. Use water-based lubricants. Use latex barriers (dental dams or other plastic/latex materials) between the genital area and mouth when licking/sucking cunts and assholes. Be especially careful to avoid the exchange of menstrual blood. Using nonoxynol-9 or other spermicides with condoms and latex barriers may add extra protection.

For finger-fucking or fisting (anal or vaginal

penetration with fingers or hands), use latex gloves or finger cots. Use water-based lubricants.

Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Be sure to discuss risk for AIDS with potential donors or sperm bank.

Be aware that some risk of exposure to immune-suppressing infections (such as mono and amoebiasis) may be associated with rimming (anal-oral contact) — use a latex barrier. Risk may also be associated with watersports (urine) or feces in the mouth, rectum or in open cuts. If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use condoms or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide.

Your body's ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

If you use IV drugs, follow the guidelines below.

Intravenous drug use

Do not share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).

Do not re-use needles; use fresh cottons each time.

If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: (617) 536-7733
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS □ JANUARY 8-14, 1989 □ PAGE 13

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) seeks applicants for positions on its Board of Directors. Financial, personnel or fundraising skills desirable. People of color and non-attorneys encouraged to apply. Send information and cover letter to Board Search, GLAD, Box 218, Boston, MA 02112, by January 15, 1989. For further information, call 426-1350.

PART-TIME PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT

Many positions available as PCA or back-up PCA for a disabled writer. Helping me to shower, dress. No lifting, but prefer those with strength or balance. I live in J.P. \$7.10 per hour. No taxes. Call (617) 232-5956. Let it ring. (27)

ATTENTION — HIRING! Government jobs — your area. Many immediate openings without waiting list or test. \$17,840-\$69,485. Call 1-602-838-8885. Ext. R6433. (25)

LIVE-IN OR PART-TIME

Personal Care Attendants to assist female professional disabled activist and friendly cat in JP. No experience necessary but must have driver's license. Live-in \$225/week. Weekdays 5-10pm \$177/week. Weekends \$160. Call 731-6228. (33)

ADVERTISING SALES

Excellent part-time openings marketing advertising for America's premiere gay & lesbian newsweekly, *GAY COMMUNITY NEWS*. Ad reps receive high commission, leads and staff support. Work can be done from your home. If you are assertive, responsible, and interested in sales, call the Advertising Coordinator at (617) 426-4469, or write to GCN 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, Mass 02116.

Community Jobs

The only nationwide listing of socially conscious job opportunities — organizing, women's issues, health care, peace/justice, more. \$12/year. CJ, Box G, 1516 P Street, Washington, DC 20005. (Ex)

ROOMMATE WANTED

TRY GCN'S GUARANTEED ROOMMATE AD

GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer: ALL ROOMMATE AND HOUSEMATE ADS THAT ARE PREPAID FOR TWO WEEKS WE WILL RUN UNTIL YOU FIND A ROOMMATE

Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays until noon. 426-4469.

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Luxurious single family 4 bedrm home. Liv rm. Din rm. Kitchen, washer/dryer, dishwasher, porches, deck, yard, offstreet pkg. 2 bdrms are yours. Fresh paint/paper. \$475 near T. Diane, 734-2189. Lv. mess. (26)

Allston: F wanted for three bedroom in triple decker to share with 1 LF and one straight woman. 330-plus, 24 years old-plus. Active, aware, positive, emotionally stable. For Feb. 1. 254-2025. (26)

LExINGTON

Professional GM seeks male or female roommate(s) on charming New England house on Mass. Ave. in Lexington, near Arlington line. Wood floors, fireplace, backporch, parking. \$550 per month includes all, less with third roommate. Call 863-2395, leave message. (26)

LF seeks same to share 6 room chem. and smoke-free apartment in Brookline near Pond. Good location, nice apartment. \$425 plus low cost heat and utilities. Call 277-4495. (26)

2LF friends seek roommate 25-plus L/Bi for our happy Somerville house. Large, sunny, homey, 3 BR, drug-smoke-free. \$300-plus. Call 623-5535. (26)

2LF seek GM or LF, non-smoker, no drugs, min. alcohol, for spacious 4BR Ashmont Hill apt. \$350 plus. Call 282-9317. (message). (25)

LF seeks roommate to share apt. in Belmont. Fireplace, backyard, near T. Quiet neighborhood, \$380 plus utilities. 484-7305. (25)

LAWRENCE

Fun LF seeks LF or GM to share beautiful 2 bedrm townhouse in Lawrence. One mile to routes 93 and 495. Washer/dryer, parking. \$375 plus. (508) 689-3528. (25)

2 LFs, 28 and 23, seek non-smoking, vegetarian LF 25 plus, with sense of humor for beautiful Somerville apartment. Have cat who wants feline companion. Available 1/15, \$310 plus 776-7909. (25)

ROOMMATE WANTED

Seeking 2F roommates to join 3F in multiracial household in JP. 250-plus avail. immed. Keep trying in p.m. 524-1303, leave a message. (23)

APARTMENTS

One bedroom apartment, Cambridgeport. \$700/mo incl. heat. Small yard, driveway, walk to Central Square. 1/1-8/1. Option to renew. 661-2083. (25)

CHANDLER STREET

Studio - No fee - Includes gas heat, h/w, \$650/mo. 469-3466. (26)

FRONT PAGE REALTY

Gorgeous 4 room apartment, enormous living room with space for piano or grand furniture, gleaming hardwood floors, fan lights throughout, dishwasher, disposal, Victorian black/white bath, \$850. 268-4700.

1 bedroom apartment, ultra modern kitchen & bath, elegant lighting fixtures, \$775. Front Page Realty, 268-4700. (27)

FOR SALE

ATTENTION — GOVERNMENT HOMES from \$1 (U-repair). Delinquent tax property. Repossessions. Call 602-838-8885. Ext. GH 6433. (25)

ATTENTION — GOVERNMENT SEIZED VEHICLES from \$100. Fords, Mercedes, Corvettes, Chevs. Surplus Buyers Guide. 1-602-838-8885 Ext. A-6433. (25)

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GCN SPECIALS

Did you get a new **HUMIDIFIER** for Xmas? Wanna give us your old one? Just call Mike at GCN, (617) 426-4469. Thanks. (26)

DUTCH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR NEEDED

A lovely lesbian/gay Dutch magazine called SEK has offered reprint permission to GCN! But none of us can read Dutch. If you can and would be willing to volunteer translation time, we'd be thrilled! Call Stephanie at GCN, (617) 426-4469. (26)

DICTIONARIES NEEDED!

The average educational level of prisoners is junior high school (meaning that many haven't even finished elementary school). Both because they have "time" now and because they need to understand the pretentious "legalese" and other language of the system, they need dictionaries.

Please consider keeping an eye out for "deals" and picking up a few for us to send out. THANKS!

GCN News and Features writers need cassette recorders. If you have a working one that you're not using, or want to donate one, it would be well used. Thank you.

PUBLICATIONS

OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsjournal. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news — on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights, and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians, and women from every continent. \$15/11 issues. Trial sub: \$4/3 issues. oob, Dept. GCN, 2423, 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample issue on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi-annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to Black/Out c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16--)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer—4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept. GCN, 33W 17th St., NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs

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OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

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WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; single issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

PUBLICATIONS

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

ORGANIZATIONS

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 523-7363 for info. (15.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.

Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

ATTENTION!!!

Our yearly 'update' letter to ALL prisoners getting GCN will be going out soon. We are asking you to write us and let us know if you want to keep getting the paper by FEB. 28! There are also some other offers and questions that you can respond to or not, as you like. But, you MUST at least let us know about getting the paper (or we'll assume you're out and the mailroom's just tossing it out, so we'll stop sending it). You should get the letter by the end of January for sure.

AIDS & PRISONS

Free booklet available by writing to: ACLU National Prison Project, 1616 P St NW, Washington DC 20036.

FREE AIDS info (monthly) from: GMHC, 129 W. 20th St., New York, NY 10011. Ask for "Treatment Issues"

Free AIDS info: 1-800-221-7044. It's like calling 'collect'. It's the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force AIDS Hotline. Check it out!

Prisoners: check out the News Notes on Page 2 for some recent legal decisions on HIV/AIDS and prisoner privacy rights.

Yes, I am in prison and would like to receive your paper. I am a homosexual, 22, hispanic, looking for a friend, maybe lover. I'll be grateful if ya'll print this. Daniel PALMARZ, 403247, Rt 1 Box 150, Tenn. Colony TX 75861

I'm a Gemini, love the outdoors, traveling, sports, and meeting real people. Am hoping to hear from someone. I'll exchange photos. I'm 28. Come on, let's get to know each other. William ALLEN, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

I like older men, 45-50, that I feel more safe with. I have more fun with them also. I'm into a lot of things that is good and safe. I wish to write to someone not in prison. I can keep house real good. I play no games at all. I'm very lonely. I'm needing a good man to write to and have a good relationship together, and maybe more. Rodney IMBLER, 161618 (HU-5-A-3), 1012 W. Columbia, Farmington MO 63640.



I am finding it very hard here in prison with no one to write to or think about. I am NOT looking for someone to get money or things out of. I am looking for someone to write to and talk to. I am very lonely here and thank you for your time. Kindest regards. Michael EASTER, 191-545, Box 69, London OH 43140.

I am gay, horny, and in need of some letters, especially from men. I like photos and even erotic letters. Rusty BLOCK, 08179-018, PMB 1000, D-north, Tallahassee FL 32301

Knows how to love queens

I would like to get to know some serious queens on the outside. I'm lonely, 33, and know how to love a queen. (I'm not allowed to write other prisoners.) Billy GOINS, 136409, A-2-122, PO Box 430, Dillwyn VA 23936.

Hi, my interests are music, swimming, photography, cooking and long walks. I'm 41 and would like to hear from anyone who could care about a lasting friendship. Charles DUNN, 287584 Cedar D-5, Box 900, Shelton WA 98584.

I'm 21, like playing cards, swimming and I'm lonely and need somebody to write. Thank you. Bruce BRICK, 145616, Box 514, Granite OK 73547.



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236-1848



Penpal wanted for lesbian in prison. I'm very feminine and outspoken. Enjoy music, poetry, long walks by sea shore, watching the sun set and rise. I also enjoy reading, writing and drawing. I can correspond with prisoners, but would like to hear from the outside world too! Robin DIETRICH, Box 9007, Framingham MA 01701.

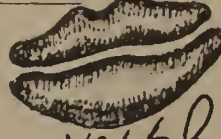
Sensitive, shy and in need of pen friends. I'd like to meet honest, serious-minded, fun, pen friends. I am allowed to write other prisoners also. I want nothing of you but your sincerity and a few minutes of your time now and then. Janet CLOUD, Box 7 Roosevelt, Shakopee MN 55379.

I'm 29 years old, and would like to write single, honest, caring women. Race and age is unimportant. Thank you. Cynthia WILCOX, A150370, Box 147 (R&O: C-1), Lowell FL 32663.



COSMOSEXUAL: just being me!

Chocolate brown hair, below-the-shoulder golden brown hair, small featured, weighing only 115 lbs, I am a Cosmosexual, transcending both homo- and hetero- sexual, going beyond bisexual and narcissism (not that Cosmosexual is any 'better' (or 'worse') than any other manner of sexual — just being me. I'm into poetry, art and the study of living of Life. I'd appreciate if you'd pass my name along to anyone who might care to hear from a lover of Cosmic Dreams. ('He plucks softly shimmering grapes from the steaming stem of eternity and pops them into his mouth.') Thank you. Deva-anuragi BLUEWING, 104228, State Farm, VA 23160.



Hello, my name's 'Dee Dee' — DEE DEE

I'm a female to male TS reaching out to a warm, fun man in the 'free' world. I'm tall, slim, healthy, good sense of humour, as well as a serious mind. I'm lonely for some companionship. Dee Dee GODFREY, 909602, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362

GBM, 25, educated, compassionate, secure, romantic, wants to hear from any/all Fems, passives, TVs. Please write. Gerald RAINES, 171-058, PO Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036

Underwear & stockings — OK

Bi, 280 lbs, 36, serving 22 yrs fed, with 11 1/2 in. seeks correspondents with Bi/TV/TSs for intellectual thoughts and friendship. Send photo if possible. No nudes. Underwear, stockings OK. Bruce WEATHERS, 32992-138, BCS-1 Mojave, PO Box 1700, Phoenix AZ 85027.

Gay man (Gemini) interested in corresponding with someone who seeks a 'lasting, loving relationship'. Getting out in summer. Joseph JAMES, A180817 (K-24), PO Box 299W, Sneeds FL 32460.

I got your address from the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. I have been gay since 8 yrs old, and am one attractive gay Queen. I'm a mix breed person, a dancer and stripper. And I sure love to get a letter! If it isn't too much trouble, could you find me a penpal. Stanley Rico DENNIS, 191-470, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Anyone willing?

Gay male incarcerated wishing to communicate with anyone that is willing. Chris CANNADY, 205-348, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.

Gay male from Ohio looking for a serious minded, well hung, gay BM who is sexually aggressive. I enjoy lingerie, sex, movies, reading, outdoors, home cooking, quiet evenings at home and good conversation. Allan PUCKETT, 40603-060, Box 33, Terre Haute IN 47808.

GM, 31, seeking outside friends. All letters welcome. Race not an issue. Please write. Darren COMBS, K-7577, Drawer K, Dallas PA 18612

Seeking a friend who understands being Gay. I enjoy romantic evenings at Home, Safe Sex, movies, videos, reading and Art. A friend said you might put me on your list. Lance LOTT, 073982 (1D-084), PO Box 279, E. Palatka FL 32031.

Calendar

17 Tuesday □ Doralba Muñoz-Godales is among the featured speakers at the "U.S. Immigration Law and Gay/Lesbian People" forum sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men (AMALGM). 7:30pm. 250 Stuart Street, Room 22 (UMASS), Boston. Info: 617/426-1350.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged. Please specify if your event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted

7 Saturday

Cambridge □ **Gaylaxian** science fiction club meets at 3pm. Info: S08/S97-S862.

Jamaica Plain □ □ **SEGAL Country Dance Series.** 1st Unitarian Church, corner of Centre and Elliot Sts. 8-10pm. \$\$S. Info: Chris, 617/431-0822.

8 Sunday

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian/Gay Neighbors** potluck (non-alcoholic.) 1st Unitarian Church, Centre and Elliot Sts. 4-7pm. Info: Kenn, 617/524-8337.

Brookline □ Join **Am Tikva** for "Coming Out: A Life Long Process." Bring something sweet. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 11:30-1:30pm. Info: 617/782-8894.

Somerville □ Somerville/Medford/Arlington potluck. Nonalcoholic. 6pm. Info: 617/776-1660.

Somerville □ Potluck with **GLOSS** of Somerville and surroundings. 7pm. Info: Mike, 617/628-2643 or Julian, 628-5306.

Boston □ **Downtown Lesbian Neighborhood Group** brunch. Info: Joan 617/266-5169.

Dorchester □ **GALA** potluck. 4pm. Entertainment. Info: 617/472-4713.

Boston □ **NASW Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues** potluck. Social workers and social work students. Info: 617/227-9635 days.

9 Monday

Boston □ Annual meeting of the **Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Action Alliance.** The Piedmont Room, City Hall. All welcome. 7pm. ASL.

Cambridge □ **Celebration '90** Gay Games III and Cultural Festival: meeting for those interested in participating. Paradise (downstairs), 180 Mass. Ave. 7:30pm.

Cambridge □ **Women's Health: Recovering Ourselves and Our Communities.** "AIDS Epidemic: Issues of Survival and Hope." Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St. Sherrill Hall room 3A. 7-9pm. Wheelchair/sign. Info: 617/277-1330, 524-0821 (TTY).

10 Tuesday

Cambridge □ **Metropolitan Community Church** "Living in a Violent World." 720 Mass. Ave. 7pm. Info: 617/523-7664.

11 Wednesday

Boston □ **Miss Gulch Returns** to Club Cabaret (at least until 1/22). Musical revue. 209 Columbus Ave. 8pm. \$10/12.

Cambridge □ Planning meeting for **BiCEP.** Boylston Hall room 2B, Harvard Yard. 7Info: 617/734-9348.

Boston □ **Living Well Workshop** for gay men to share and explore new and old ways of relating. Fenway Community Health Center, 93 Mass. Ave. 4th floor. Free but preregistration requested. Info: Paul, 617/267-0900.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Partners of Incest Survivors** ongoing group. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. Info: 627/354-8807. (TTY/voice).

12 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night.** All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St. near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Boston □ **Quilting Bee for the NAMES Project.** Parents of PWAs are especially welcome. Arlington St. Church, Arlington and Boylston Sts. 6-9pm.

Cambridge □ **The Alley Theatre** presents "Getting Out" by Marsha Norman. Ongoing until February 25.

13 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing.** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Jamaica Plain □ **Skating** with Lesbian and Gay Neighbors at Lars Anderson rink. 7-9pm. Info: Debby, 617/522-9513.

Cambridge □ **Lesbians Choosing Children** meets at the Women's Center. 7:30pm. Childcare. (see above for Info.)

Boston □ Orientation meeting for the **Alternative Insemination Program** at the Fenway Community Health Center. Info: 617/267-0900.

Randolph □ **Gay Professional women** host scavenger hunt at the Randolph Country Club. Members free, guests \$\$S. 8pm. Info: Donna, (after 8pm.) 617/585-6051.

14 Saturday

New Hampshire □ Snowshoeing with the **Chiltern Mountain Club.** Overnight. Info: John or Bob, 617/484-7192.

Cambridge □ **Coming Out: Open Discussion for Women of All Ages.** May continue to meet if sufficient interest. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 11am-1pm. Info: 617/354-8807.

Northampton □ "Vamp," starring Grace Jones will be shown by **Shelix**, a woman-to-woman S/M support group. Chem-free. 8pm. \$2. Info: 413/584-7616.

15 Sunday

Boston □ Brunch with the **Alliance of Mass Asian Lesbians and Gay Men** for Asians. 1pm. \$2 (food provided) Reservations ASAP. Info: 617/262-6670.

Lowell □ Potluck with **Gay in the Merrimack Valley.** 1st Grace Unitarian Fellowship, 79 Florence Ave. Info: David 508/452-4686, Bob 508/458-0011.

Boston □ **Entry deadline** for "Women See Women," an art exhibition on March 8th. Send up to 10 clearly labeled slides to: Boston Women's Caucus for Art, c/o Grazia Marzot, 178 W. Brookline St. Boston 02118.

16 Monday

Cambridge □ Stone Soup presents **Riq Hospodar and Macha Womongold.** 280 Green St. 8-10pm. Donation. Info: 617/227-0845.

17 Tuesday

Boston □ **Forum on Immigration Law Reform** sponsored by GLAD and Alliance of Mass Asian Lesbians and Gay Men. 250 Stuart St. Rm. 22. (UMass). 7:30pm. All welcome. Info: 617/426-1350.

Boston □ General meeting for **New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans.** Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall. 7-10pm. Info: Cliff, 617/723-8127.

Boston □ **Healing Service** for all affected by AIDS. Old South Church, Dartmouth and Boylston Sts. 7:30pm. Info: 617/536-1970.

Brookline □ **Discussion** for people affected by AIDS. Jewish Family and Children's Service, 636 Brookline St. 7:30pm. Info: Nancy 617/566-5716.

Cambridge □ **Countering Harassment Training** at the Metropolitan Community Church office, 720 Mass. Ave. 7pm. Info: 617/523-7664.

18 Wednesday

Boston □ **Living Well Workshop** for anyone concerned about how stress affects health and especially immunity. Fenway Community Health Center, 93 Mass. Ave. 4th floor. Free but preregister. Info: Paul, 617/267-0900.

Boston □ **Boston NOW's Lesbian Rights Task Force** meets at 971 Comm. Ave. 7pm. Info: 617/782-1056.

19 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night.** Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St. near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Boston □ **Black Feminist Theory and Practice,** part of the Northeastern University Women Studies Boston Area Colloquium on Feminist Theory. The Frost Lounge, the Ell building. 8pm. Info: 617/437-4984.

20 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St. near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Brookline □ **Am Tikva** Martin Luther King commemorative program. Please bring something sweet. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. All welcome. 8pm. Info: 617/782-8894.

Weekly Events

Saturday

Cambridge □ **SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense** conducts ongoing beginning classes, and open workouts. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. Tue. and Thur. 6-8pm. Info: 617/924-3799.

Boston □ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** workshop. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Collective Women's Self-Defense Classes** All ages and abilities. Meets Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons in South End. Info: 617/574-9433.

Boston □ **Gay Boston,** with Candace Van Auken. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Sunday

Brookline □ **Swing and Ballroom Dance Classes** for Lesbians and Gay men. 1/8-3/5. 1636A Beacon St. Beginners, 7:30-8:30; Advanced, 8:30-9:30. \$55-60. Info: 617/522-1444.

Boston □ **Metro Healing healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: 617/426-9205.

Boston □ "Boston's Other Voice," radio for gay/lesbian community, with Peter Suckel. WROR 98.5 FM. 11:30pm.

Boston □ **The Gay Dating Show,** WUNR 1600 AM. 11:45pm-3am.

Monday

Boston □ **Straight Talk About Disabilities** February program on the Deaf Community. M/W nights at 7:30pm, Channel A-22.



Ellen Shub

Cambridge □ **Healing Circle,** ongoing since 1980. 5 Upland Rd., Porter Square. 7:30-9:30pm. \$\$ suggested. Info: 617/864-1989.

Boston □ **Alcoholics Together** Les/Gay group holds a free discussion meeting Mon.-Fri. at Gay & Lesbian Health, 180 Cambridge St. 12-1:30pm. Info: 617/227-8353.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap.** Topics: 1/9 Relationships with ex-lovers. 1/16 Holiday — no rap. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 617/354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes.** From 1/16. Mon, Porter Sq.; Tue, Arlington; Wed, Porter Sq.; Thu, JP. Sliding scale. Info: Whitewolf 617/277-8232.

Tuesday

Boston □ **Lesbian and Gay Concert and Marching Band.** No auditions. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15 p.m. Info: Joe 617/625-3304, Zoe 617/396-2989.

Providence, RI □ **ACT UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Info: Bill 617/782-9063.

Roxbury □ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Room 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7:00pm. Info: 617/49-ACT-UP.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap.** 12/27 Being Single/Part of a Couple. 1/10 Drawing the Line: Platonic vs. Intimate Friendships. 1/17 Children/Choices. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. Free. Info: 617/354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **30-plus Lesbian Rap** 12/27 Taking Risks. 1/10 Coming Out Experiences. 1/17 Doing What You Want to Do. 7-8:30pm. The Women's Center (see above).

Wednesday

Cambridge □ "Say it Sister!" WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. See Sat. listing.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 617/354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Brookline □ **Boston Committee Determined to Free Sharon Kowalski** meets. Boston Self-Help Center, 18 Williston Rd. 7pm. Info: 617/661-0533.

Cambridge □ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. Info: 617/661-7737.

Thursday

Cambridge □ **The Group** Walker Memorial, MIT on Memorial Drive. Info: 617/266-1129.

Boston □ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. Info: 617/492-RAPE.

Friday

Worcester □ **AIDS Project** — Worcester support group for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs and supporters. Open to all lesbians and gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston □ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: 617/426-9205.

Cambridge □ **Women's Coffeehouse** The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 617/354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Calendar compiled by
Erik Moore

"When you can start being exactly who you are it's amazing. I think it changed people's lives. I know I'll never be the same."

— A lesbian participant in the 1987 March on Washington, from the opening segment of the multi-image slide show "For Love and For Life: The 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights," by Joan E. Biren (better known as JEB).

By Jennie McKnight

For the more than 650,000 of us who were at last year's monumental gathering, JEB's show offers the chance to relive what may have been one of the most powerful experiences of our lives. And for the millions who didn't make it to Washington, here's your chance to go!

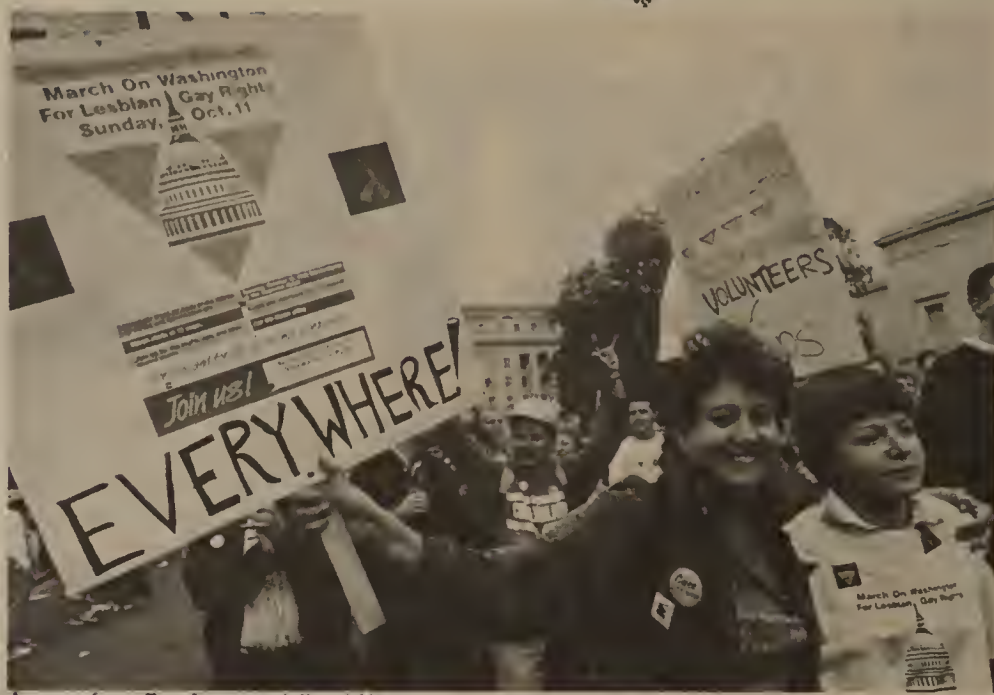
Consisting primarily of JEB's photographs, but also including the work of

video

several other photographers, this hour-long presentation features hundreds of color images from the weekend of Oct. 10-13, 1987. Through the use of two alternating slide projectors, the images blend together and produce a collage effect. And JEB's insightful narrative soundtrack — which also contains live audio footage from the weekend's events — gives both a feeling of "being there" and a political/historical context for the March.

I got to see *For Love and For Life* at its premiere in Washington this October. The showing was part of a series of events organized one year after the March, so many of my feelings and recollections about that weekend in '87 were already floating around in my head. Several hundred lesbians and gay men from D.C. and around the country piled into the auditorium, and after being treated to a wonderful poetry/musical performance by Essex Hemphill and Wayson Jones, we had something like a huge collective scrapbook viewing.

In fact, seeing/hearing this show was not unlike participating in the March itself: my own personal feelings and reactions blended with that heady awareness of being part of an intense group experience. The crowd really went wild! We cracked up at shots like the one of the "Gays Without Dates" contingent, and we cheered ecstatically for the myriad other groups captured on film — like the People With AIDS Coalition at the



A scene from *For Love and For Life*

Capturing the March that 'changed people's lives'

The magnitude and the meaning of the March on Washington on tour

front of the March and the first group of dykes to get busted at the Supreme Court civil disobedience (CD). We were gripped by the images and voices of speakers like Karen Thompson and Barbara Smith; and many wept openly during the segments on the dedication of the Harvey Milk memorial and the unfurling of the NAMES Project Quilt.

One of the great things about JEB's show is that you get to see and hear so much more than any single person could have taken in during that weekend. For example, marching to the percussion rhythms of Boston's Batucada Belles was something only five thousand lucky marchers got to do (me not

included). But the Belles are a force on the soundtrack of JEB's presentation that really drives the images along. I was personally happy to see and hear parts of "The Wedding," since I didn't attend the actual event. Similarly, folks who couldn't stay for the CD will find themselves right in the middle of the action.

But the amazing breadth — and technical excellence — of the images is only part of the strength of JEB's show. The structure of the presentation and her informative narration give us a sense of the magnitude and meaning of the March. JEB offers us more than a snapshot of the largest gathering of queers in history; she frames for us a mobilization

that came from someplace and is going someplace.

After the opening sequence of various lesbians and gay men describing their reactions to the March, JEB places the "largest civil rights gathering in the history of the U.S." within the tradition of other movements for social change in this country. She recalls the suffragist, civil rights and anti-war movements — all of which have included gay people and all of which have employed the strategies of mass mobilizations and acts of non-violent civil disobedience. She leads us up to the '87 March by tracing the emergence and growth of the U.S. gay and lesbian movement, including shots of the first national gay march on Washington in 1979. JEB also recounts the organizing process for the '87 March itself.

Then JEB takes us chronologically through the events of the weekend in October of 1987 when "the population in D.C. doubled." Although we get glimpses of some of the more than 80 events related to the March, she focuses on the Harvey Milk Memorial, the Wedding, the Quilt, the Morning Rally organized by the People of Color Caucus, the actual March, the Afternoon Rally, and Tuesday's civil disobedience. I was impressed by the obvious effort JEB put into making sure the groups of images from each event were diverse, representative, and inspiring. Although the task of documenting events that included perhaps three quarters of a million people is at best formidable and more likely impossible, JEB has put together a show that not only records a lot of us who were there, but also acknowledges the millions of lesbians and gay men who couldn't or chose not to go to D.C.

JEB finishes the program with a look at how the mainstream media covered the March and by giving some examples of the growth and energy the March sparked at the community and national levels. By showing the media's response (which ranged from no coverage to accounts that put our numbers at the ridiculously low Park Police estimate of 200,000), she reminds us of how easy it is for this society to continue to deny or minimize our numbers and our clout. As with JEB's renowned work photographing lesbians, *For Love and For Life* responds to

Continued on page 7

U.S. immigration Law and Gay/Lesbian People

A forum sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men (AMALGM)

Speakers:

- Barney Frank (Member of Congress)
- Fernando Chang-Muy (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)
- Doralba Munoz-Godales (Office for Refugees and Immigration)
- Richard Iandoli (Boston attorney specializing in immigration cases)

• HIV testing requirements • Applying for Permanent Residency Status • Exclusionary practices directed at gay men & lesbians, people with AIDS, HIV positive individuals • Legislative proposals affecting gay men & lesbians • Updates on the Immigration Reform Act

• **Place:** University of Mass.
(Park Sq. Campus)
250 Stuart St. Room 222
Boston (Barrier Free)

• **Time:** Wednesday June 29
7:30-10:00 p.m.

• **Information:** GLAD (617)-426-1350

Gay Community News Presents:



For Love and For Life: The 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

by Joan E. Biren (JEB)

A Multi-image slide show

Saturday, January 21
8:00 PM

Paine Hall, Harvard University
Wheelchair accessible
Sign Language Interpreted

\$6-\$10 sliding scale